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Hafa Adai!

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New EIS comment deadline: Aug. 17

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Marine Corp Forces Pacific has extended by 14 days the public comment period on U.S. military live-fire training plans on Tinian and Pagan. Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres had requested an extension to allow the public more time to access the Internet for research and to submit comments online.

The request came amid the telecommunications crisis that halted Internet services to a crawl.

MARFORPAC executive director Craig Whelden granted the extension last week.

In a letter to Torres, Whelden said he was aware that Typhoon Nangka had an adverse impact on the CNMI and the resulting challenges the community was facing, particularly concerning commu-

See EIS on Page 4

12-kilo 'ice' bust is biggest in CNMI history

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The recent drug bust conducted by the Division of Customs and other law enforcement agencies is the biggest in the CNMI's history.

Customs director Joe Mafnas said the haul of methamphetamine or "ice" was approximately 12 kilos (23.5 lbs), with an estimated value of $4.2 million.

The Division of Customs recently intercepted approximately 12 kilos (23.5 lbs) of methamphetamine, packed in five bags, with an estimated value of $4.2 million. JOEL PINAROC

Mafnas, in a press conference on Capital Hill yesterday, said the drug bust happened on July 17 when Customs agents inspected a 40-foot container from China.

The official said Customs agents worked on the container for six days sifting through electronic parts, apparel, and "many other contraband."

Part of the merchandise was an air compressor that got agents suspicious, Mafnas said. The compressor was cut open, revealing five packages of crystal meth.

In his more than 20 years in law enforcement, this is "largest crystal meth intercepted" in the CNMI, Mafnas said.

See ICE on Page 4

Man suffers burns in house fire

» Coconut husk-burning incident triggers fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 63-year-old man sustained first- and second-degree burns when the burning of coconut husks triggered a fire at his semi-concrete house in Dandan early yesterday morning.

The victim, a Palauan man, suffered

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The burning of coconut husks triggered a fire that engulfed this semi-concrete house in Dandan early yesterday morning. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PACAF aims for end of Aug. for revised EIS

» Historical impacts to be determined

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Air Force's plans for a "hybrid" use of both the Saipan and Tinian airports will be detailed in a revised environmental impact statement targeted for release by the end of August, Pacific Air Forces officials said Saturday.

Air Force officials held an open house at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Saturday, explaining their divert options on either Tinian, Saipan, or both islands, and its potential impacts on historical sites.

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Local

Shirley Kim is $10K Liberation Day raffle winner

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A week and a half after announcing the winning tickets for the raffle, the name of person who won the grand prize of $10,000 was officially disclosed by the Saipan Mayor's Office, Skywalker Communications Group, and the 2015 Liberation Day Committee when they presented the checks to the winners yesterday afternoon.

Shirley Kim, who just arrived yesterday morning from Colorado, heard from her sister that she had won after they finally contacted her. Her winning ticket is No. 24381.

"I am so happy and excited. …Now I can pay my bills, send some to my sick sister, and pay my daughter's tuition," said Kim, who owns the Makeover Beauty Salon at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

She said she purchased only $10 worth of tickets (two booklets).

The second place winner got $5,000, while the third place winner got $3,000. Organizers withheld the names of the other Top 3 winners.

Aside from the raffle ticket winners, the float competition winners were also presented with their checks.

The Yapaese community won $4,000 for finishing first place in the float competition.

Dionisia Pialur Ythemar, representing the Yapese community, spoke in Chamorro and told *Saipan Tribune* that they were happy.

"It was hard work, we kept redoing the float for almost three weeks and every night they kept practicing their dancing," Ythemar said.

Papago Lancherus won second place and was given a check for $3,000. Herman Santos, 57, who spoke on behalf of the Lancherus, said their goal was to promote local produce and the agricultural side of the islands.

Cholll A Bellu won third place and representatives took home $2,000 in cash prize, while the United Filipino Organization took $1,000 as fourth place winners.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, in his congratulatory remarks, thanked Skywalker Communications' president Dr. Hu Bo for making this year's raffle prizes, including the fundraising from the 2015 Liberation Royal Court, possible.

Shirley Kim, center, is presented with a $10,000 check yesterday for winning the 2015 Liberation Day raffle drawing. Joining her in a group photo, from left to right, is 2015 Liberation Day royal princess Stephanie Camacho, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Skywalker Communication Group president Dr. Hu Bo, Liberation Day executive committee chair Chris Leon Guerrero, and Liberation Day committee president Louis Rodgers. JAYSON CAMACHO

The 2015 Liberation Day raffle winners pose with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Skywalker Communications Group, and 2015 Liberation Day committee. JAYSON CAMACHO

The 2015 Liberation Day float winners—the Yapese Community, Papago Lancherus, Cholll A Bellu, and United Filipino Organization—join Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Skywalker Communications Group, and the 2015 Liberation Day committee members. JAYSON CAMACHO

$5K cash bail for man who staged 3-hour drama

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A $5,000 cash bail was imposed yesterday on the man who allegedly grabbed two machetes from Feng Hua Store in San Jose, threatened to kill his wife, then barricaded himself on the third floor of the store's building before surrendering to police.

Alfred Jacob Teregeyo Kaipat, 31, was taken to court yesterday morning for his initial appearance on charges of theft, disturbing the peace, and violation of an order of protection.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio ordered Kaipat to have no direct or indirect contact with his wife, Yanyu Chou Kaipat, and the owner of Feng Hua Store.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 4, 2015, at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark served as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda represented the government at the hearing.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police officer Jackson Jack was dispatched on Saturday at 11:07am to a theft incident at Feng Hua Store along Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose.

Pangelinan said the store's owner told Jack that the cashier informed her that one of her tenants, Kaipat, came into the store and grabbed two machetes and walked out without paying for it.

The machetes measure about 2 1/2 feet and were worth $27 each, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

A few minutes later, the cashier's husband came into the store and told the store's owner to call the police because he heard Kaipat say that he plans to kill his wife with the machetes. Kaipat was quoted as saying he would rather kill his wife than let her divorce him and go back to China.

Jack walked to the parking lot and saw Kaipat through the glass window staring at him and holding the machetes up in both hands. Jack noticed that Kaipat had other knives around his waist.

Jack asked for additional police backup. Another police officer came and they requested for Special Enforcement Action Section and investigators as Kaipat had barricaded himself with machetes and knives.

At 12pm, Pangelinan said she arrived at the scene with patrol commander Jose Saures, Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation commander Jeffrey Olopai, SEAS in-charge Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, and firefighter-in charge Frances I. Manglona.

Pangelinan said people in the area were evacuated, the neighboring stores were closed down, and traffic was diverted. The perimeter from Feng Hua to the nearby Friendly Market was barricaded and all cars in the parking lot were removed.

Pangelinan said she noticed Kaipat was holding two machetes and had other knives around his waist. Kaipat was seen swinging the machetes toward his neck and chest and hitting the table with the machete.

Pangelinan said she also heard shattering glass and loud pounding coming from the third floor.

Kaipat also would put the machetes out of the glass window, showing them to the police officers in the parking lot.

At 12:47pm, a detective interviewed Kaipat's wife, Yanyu Chou Kaipat, who was crying inside the patrol vehicle in the parking lot of Dolphin Store.

Yanyu Chou gave the detective a copy of a court's order of protection against Kaipat. The order was signed by Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on July 1, 2015.

Court papers also show that Yanyu Chou filed a divorce case against Kaipat and the case is pending in court.

Govendo's order prohibited Kaipat from, among other things, using or possessing any firearms or other weapons.

Yanyu Chou disclosed that Kaipat came to her store in Dandan three days ago so she told him she would call the police. Kaipat left. Two days later, Kaipat went to their apartment at Feng Hua building so Yanyu Chou called the police. Kaipat then left.

On Friday night, Yanyu Chou decided to sleep in her store because she was scared to go home. On Saturday morning, she received a call from the store's owner that Kaipat got two machetes from the store and had threatened to kill her.

Kaipat's family members who arrived at the scene tried to persuade him to surrender. Kaipat's mother tried to talk through the public address system for Kaipat to come down the building, but he refused.

It was when Kaipat's 5-year-old niece talked to him, crying and begging him to come down the building, that Kaipat finally walked down the stairway with the weapons with him.

Pangelinan said that when Kaipat reached the first floor he sat on the stairway and put the weapons on his right side. SEAS officers then secured him.

Senate adopts legislation to create utilities chief

The Senate has adopted a resolution urging the CNMI government to appoint a special assistant for public utilities and communications.

Senate Joint Resolution 19-03 was adopted during a Senate session held on Rota last week. Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced the resolution.

In his filing, Palacios noted that "it appears that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is only authorized to review rates and not to establish public utility policies or plans that are not related to rates."

S.J.R 19-03 seeks a utilities chief whose main responsibility is to "take the lead in establishing a comprehensive public utilities and communications policy and plan for the Commonwealth."

The utilities chief will also "advise and make recommendations" to the governor.

For the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Palacios cited that the governor has executed every 30 days a state of significant emergency declaration "due to the imminent threat of the inability of the CUC to provide critical power generation, water, and wastewater to the Commonwealth."

Aside from the CUC, the utilities chief will also be tasked to make recommendations on communications services including "broadband Internet."

Palacios' resolution specifically cited a recent communications outage that effectively isolated Saipan and compelled the declaration of yet another state of significant emergency.

The special assistant will also be tasked to "review the exclusive agreement between IT&E and its predecessors and the Commonwealth government, report on the benefits and disadvantages of that agreement and recommend whether or not the agreement needs to be revisited to ensure that the people of the Commonwealth continue to receive the best available communications services." ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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Fate of NMC's Hart unclear; no announcement yet

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents' decision on the contract of college president Dr. Sharon Hart remains unclear several weeks after her contract expired on July 2.

In interviews yesterday over the phone and at his law office in Garapan, NMC board chair Juan Lizama did not comment directly when asked for details on whether Hart's contract was renewed for two years, one year, or if it was renewed at all.

The NMC board chairman is the spokesperson of the board and addresses reporters. Hart is an employee of the board.

Saipan Tribune asked Lizama point blank if Hart is working without a contract.

"The clear-cut answer to that is she is not contract-less," Lizama said. He added, "That was not a good question."

"There is no announcement of any sort so you cannot speculate if she is contract-less or she has got a contract…She's still there, she's still running the college," Lizama said.

Directed to the special board meeting on June 25 on Hart's contract, Lizama said there was "no action" taken by the board.

"There was no vote to finalize the contract," he said.

If the board had voted during the special meeting on Hart's contract, it would have been done in open session.

The minutes of the special meeting have not yet been adopted and made available for public viewing. It was not adopted at their meeting last Friday.

Saipan Tribune was told that the board had voted on a one-year renewal of Hart's contract in their June 25 special meeting, and that as of Friday, Hart has not signed her contract. But Lizama's statements yesterday did not corroborate this.

Earlier this month, the college said there was still no new information to share "other than both parties are in the midst of contract negotiations."

The college per policy does not comment directly on personnel matters.

A contract would entail the signatures of the employee, Hart; the board chairman, Lizama; the board legal counsel; and the college's human resource manager.

2 OPA Task Force officers testify in trial of Rota couple

The bench trial of former Rota Procurement officer Rowena Barcinas and her husband, retired police officer Andrew Barcinas, began yesterday at the Rota Superior Court. The two are facing corruption charges.

Saipan Tribune learned that the prosecution called two witnesses yesterday. The trial will resume today, Tuesday, at 8:30am.

Office of the Attorney General's newly hired white-collar crime prosecutor Matthew Baisley called to the stand the government's first witness, police officer Melissa Bauleong, who is a member of the Office of the Public Auditor-Task Force.

After Bauleong, the prosecutor called OPA-Task Force member police officer J.B. Cepeda.

After the defense completed its cross-examination of Cepeda, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho recessed at 5pm.

Attorney Steven Pixley is court-appointed counsel for Andrew Barcinas, while assistant public defender Mathew Meyer is counsel for Rowena Barcinas.

Before the prosecution called the government's first witness, Camacho heard Meyer's motion to strike and exclude exhibits that the OAG filed before the trial. Pixley joined the motion.

Camacho denied the motion, saying the exhibits were sealed immediately and that he did not see them.

Camacho also noted that none of the photos or exhibits were published in the newspaper so there was no prejudice to the defendants.

The Barcinas couple was arrested last April. They subsequently posted bail. Mrs. Barcinas was arrested on charges of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and removal of government property. Mr. Barcinas was arrested for receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Bauleong stated in her report that Mr. Barcinas, as then Rota Procurement officer, allegedly used her position to manipulate the system into "surveying" several government vehicles on Rota.

Bauleong said one of the several vehicles was the government's Jeep Cherokee, that Mr. Barcinas allegedly asked someone to fix and then brought it to his house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MAN

From Page 1

first-degree burns on his left hand and left side of his back, and second-degree burns on his thigh, left arm, and face, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde.

Gersonde said inquiries pertaining to updates on the patient's status and treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center should be referred to the CHC public information officer.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call from 911 dispatch about a house fire in Dandan yesterday at 12:03am.

Firefighters from Koblerville and Garapan Fire Stations, Forestry 2 from Kagman Fire Station, and Forestry 1 and CBRNE Unit from Susupe responded.

Gersonde said the blaze was fully extinguished by 12:36am.

When medics arrived, they found the victim complaining of body pain. The victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Arson investigators determined that the fire was caused by the burning of coconut husks—traditionally used as a form of mosquito repellant. The victim, who stays alone in the house, burned the coconut husks then later fell asleep. He was awakened when the fire had already spread to his house, which was made up of wood and tin, with concrete posts.

The husks were placed near combustible materials, which exceeded the height and width of the flame. The fire then spread to nearby combustible materials, Gersonde said.

The fire totally engulfed the house.

Gersonde said the case is closed because the cause was accidental.

Last June 26, the burning of coconut husks also triggered a fire to spread to a parked van and a house's garage in As Perdido. No one was injured.

PACAF

From Page 1

The hybrid approach was first "socialized" among government leaders and military leaders earlier this year. It was announced months after the Commonwealth Ports Authority rejected a project siting on Saipan, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rating of earlier impact documents as "insufficient" due to its minimal assessment of severe noise impacts on Saipan residents.

"We modified our proposal and this is the proposal we brought back to the CNMI for your comments," said U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Addison. "This proposal removes all the fighter aircraft [and] all the associated construction involved with it."

When asked to comment on the CPA board resolution, Addison said CPA would be involved in the process. "We are working in partnership with CPA as well as all other consulting parties… Our goal here is to get to an end-state that is mutually agreeable to everybody."

The U.S. military would need to acquire from CPA leased lands on Saipan for a divert project. CPA also has final say over an airport laydown plan to be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval should any divert project be agreed to.

Pacific Air Forces Chief of Basing and Bed Downs Carol Gaudette told *Saipan Tribune* that with the revised EIS they expect "noise contour levels would shrink considerably" as they did not have plans for fighter activity.

The Air Force would instead fly tanker aircraft.

There will also be no "preferred" alternative within this revised EIS.

She said the revised project excluded the fighter aircraft, an extension of the Tinian airport runway, a munitions igloo or storage area, and parking apron on Saipan. The Tinian runway extension would have required Broadway to be rerouted, she said.

For Tinian, the Air Force has siting options on the north side and south side of the airport.

It was also clarified that the U.S. military had not made a decision yet to consolidate on the northern end of the Tinian airport as was reported by those involved in the "CNMI Joint Military Project" earlier this year. The Marine Forces Pacific under the Department of Navy heads the CJMT project.

If the north siting option were used, it is likely the Air Force would not operate at the same time with the CJMT operations because of this. They would plan for "deconflicting" schedules. In comparison, the CJMT project uses rotary-winged aircraft versus the fixed-wing aircraft of the Air Force.

The U.S. military would have to construct one on the north end if activity is placed on the north end.

The modified Saipan alternative includes a parking apron, hydrant system, bulk fuel storage, maintenance facility, and cargo pad.

Gaudette said the required leased lands for operations would be less than reported 33 acres needed earlier. An exact acreage could not be obtained as of press time.

The modified Tinian alternative includes for both north and south siting options, construction of taxiways, a cargo pad, parking apron, maintenance facility, fire pump building, tanks, and wells, operational fuel tanks, and bulk fuel storage.

The hybrid option entails construction of a bulk fuel storage, maintenance facility, cargo pad on Saipan, plus construction entailed in the modified Tinian alternative.

Historic impact

Air Force officials could not say exactly what impacts there would be on historic sites, explaining that that's why they were doing the public commenting period—to find out.

They aim for a "Sec. 106" agreement under the National Historical Preservation Act by December. It is the US Air Force policy to have one signed among local and federal agencies before a final environmental impact statement is released.

Gaudette said the Sec. 106 agreement provides the "framework for determine how a project addresses historic properties and resources during construction and implementation of" their project.

"There is certainly history here of Chamorro and Carolinian people of the CNMI but a lot of the history here is Air Force history too. So your history is our history, so we feel we have a vested interest in doing this the right way," Addison said.

An "area of potential effect" is decided by determining all the areas where the Air Force anticipates the proposed undertaking might change the character or use of historic properties, if they exist. They include direct and indirect effects, such as construction, noise and vehicle traffic.

For the modified Saipan Alternative, the APE includes construction areas at the airport and proposed traffic routes [roads] between the airport and seaport. The APE extends east and west beyond construction areas at the airport to account for noise produced by aircraft during takeoff and landing. Saipan International Airport is completely contained within the boundaries of the Isley Historic District portion of the Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point National Historic Landmark. The Air Force considers an effect on any part of the NHL to be an effect on the entire NHL.

EIS

From Page 1

nications infrastructure.

As such, Whelden granted the 14-day extension. The new date for the public comment period to end is Aug. 17.

The public is urged to comment on military plans before the deadline. Public comment is an integral part of the National Environmental Policy Act process, which compels federal agencies to make clear their plans and its impacts to a community and the environment.

"I am glad the Department of Defense and Marine Forces Pacific recognized the difficult circumstances the CNMI has experienced in the recent weeks. A key component of the NEPA process is public involvement, which relies heavily on Internet access," Torres said in a statement.

"Without online access to documents and resources regarding the CJMT project, true and productive comments from the residents of our islands would have been hampered, affecting our ability to accurately voice the many concerns about the proposed activities. The NEPA process is unique in that it gives every person in the CNMI an opportunity to effect change to federal government policies and plans. Every resident has a strong voice, and I sincerely hope every resident uses it. If anyone would like to learn about the CJMT proposed actions or would like to submit a comment to the Navy about your concerns, support, or opposition, I strongly encourage you visit the CNMI government website on the project, www.cnmieis.org."

ICE

From Page 1

"Like I always said, we need to choke this at the point of entry. We choked it, stopped it, so 23 lbs of crystal meth will not make it to the streets," Mafnas said.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero referred to the massive drug bust as the "mother of all mother lodes."

He said he is "very happy" that DPS will "not collect" this amount of drugs on the CNMI.

"Just think about how much damage that amount of ice can do to the CNMI. But work is still ongoing," Deleon Guerrero said.

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres thanked law enforcement agencies for the successful operation.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that on July 17, during a routine inspection of a shipping container from Guangzhou, China, a CNMI Customs inspector noticed an air-compressor listed to a "Han Lu" that appeared to have been tampered with.

Using a fiber optic camera to look inside the tank, Customs inspectors saw a package containing a crystal-like substance. A field test kit was then used to determine the contents and the results returned presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

A drug detection dog also alerted inspectors to the presence of narcotics. The tank was opened and inspectors recovered a total of five square plastic packages of "ice" weighing approximately 23 lbs or 10,617 grams.

The tank was eventually resealed, and on July 21, the air compressor was transported along with the rest of the cargo to the Sunleader warehouse in As Terlaje Road, Saipan.

At the warehouse, investigators with the DEA, CNMI Customs, U.S. Homeland Security Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Public Safety, and CNMI Attorney General Investigation Unit placed the area under surveillance and waited for the person or persons who would pick up the shipment.

Yuliu Liu, 36, and Zhenlin Fang, 24, were taken to federal court on Friday afternoon to face charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Cable repair complete; network progressing to 100 pct.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Internet services came alive during the early hours yesterday morning after the successful repair of IT&E's damaged undersea fiber optic cable.

As IT&E continues to restore their network to 100 percent capacity, residents can thank the CS *Durable* and its crew for progressing on repairs over the weekend. CS *Durable* is the repair ship hired by IT&E.

IT&E had targeted a 48-hour timeline for repairs. When work began on Friday, IT&E said they aimed to restore services by Monday morning.

IT&E began migrating all circuits and traffic back to the cable early Monday morning.

IT&E said this process is expected to take several more days before it is complete and IT&E's network is back at 100 percent capacity.

During this time, customers may experience temporary service interruptions as the migration occurs, IT&E said.

Over the weekend, the CS *Durable* was stationed off the Saipan coast near the Coral Ocean Point Resort. Crew had set up restricted access tape surrounding the work site and were seen working on the beachside. A series of buoys, which appeared to run along the fiber optic line, was set from the shore to the repair ship off the coast.

The CS *Durable* arrived last Thursday morning. It has returned to the Port of Saipan.

IT&E has described the damage to the fiber optic cable as an "act of God" caused by harsh weather conditions over the years.

The massive communications outage hit the CNMI on July 8 due to the damage to IT&E's undersea cable.

Assessment of damage still ongoing as Internet access returns to normal

The Department of Finance is continuing the assessment of financial damage caused by a massive communications breakdown a few weeks ago.

Services have reportedly returned to "normal," particularly Internet access services.

Finance Secretary Larissa Larson said the assessment report will be submitted to acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres for review after the department completes the report.

The Finance chief reiterated that the communications breakdown "slowed us down dramatically."

"We're still assessing. As soon as we have something, then we will have formal report for the governor for his review," Larson said.

Earlier, Larson said there is no estimate yet—in monetary terms—of the damage but her department and other CNMI departments "are on top of it."

Larson earlier said her department will soon formalize a request for "credit" from IT&E. "We do feel that the disruptions to the Department of Commerce and to our department warrants it," she said.

On Capital Hill, government employees said their Internet access is back and that work on document transmittal and email communications are back to normal. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

PH passports processed last May will be distributed soon

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Philippine passports that were processed during the Philippine Consulate General's mobile outreach on Saipan last May are now on island and will be distributed soon.

According to Honorary Consul to the Philippines Glicerio "Eli" Arago, he received 500 passports.

"The passports I received already and it's ready for distribution," he said.

Arago said they are finalizing where and when they will start distributing the passports but they will do it soon.

"I am thinking maybe in the afternoon, in one place. I'll find a volunteer to distribute them as soon as possible," Arago said.

Unlike in the past when the passports are distributed at the same time as the mobile consular outreach, this time it will be distributed earlier than the upcoming outreach scheduled on Aug. 13 to 16.

"Before they arrive, hopefully we have distributed all the [passports] already," Arago said.

Aside from Saipan, the Philippine Consulate in Guam will also hold an outreach on Tinian.

For Saipan, the mobile outreach will be on Aug. 13 to 15 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and for Tinian, it will be held on Aug. 16 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Pre-registered applicants for renewal of passports, registration for overseas voting, and those who want to avail of the civil registry and notarial services will be accommodated.

According to Arago, there is still no scheduled consular outreach for Rota.

"I will talk to Consul Gary [Auxilian] about that," Arago said, adding that he will ask the consulate in Guam if they can do a special outreach solely for Rota.

"I don't want to promise but I'll try my best to convince him. If they are concerned about the logistics, let's see how we can help," he added.

Vendor for Beach Road Pathway lighting known 1st week of August

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority will finally select the winning bidder for its much-awaited Saipan Beach Road Pathway lighting project in the first week of August, according to MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

Duenas said that MVA will soon meet with the Department of Public Works, which received 17 responses to the invitation to bid.

Duenas said the meeting will allow the vendors to present their proposals and see what is needed.

At their last board meeting on July 16, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the lighting project would take a total of 120 days to complete.

There are currently no functioning lights along the Beach Road Pathway. MVA said thieves have stripped many of the copper wires and improving the lighting in the pathway is one of the many destination enhancement projects that MVA is pushing to improve the island's image to tourists.

SPDA Engineering, which is in charge of pushing the project forward, gave MVA updates at their board meeting in February 2015. It said an inventory was done for light fixtures from Kilili Beach/Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to the American Memorial Park, Paseo de Marianas, and Bank of Saipan areas.

The company found that DPW was in charge of maintaining the lights and has access to all the electrical cabinets.

It also found that the pathway lights start from Kilili Beach and end at American Memorial Park near the fire station. It also branches out into Paseo de Marianas including the road from of Bank of Guam to Bank of Saipan in Garapan.

However, aside from the Beach Road Pathway lighting, the MVA board had also suggested lighting the palm trees in front of PDM.

MVA wants the project done in possibly six months, including the assessment, bidding, and construction of new path lights.

This project would also require maintenance and further involvement of MVA.

Tenorio asked lawmakers at a budget hearing in May that MVA needs $1.8 million to hire more staff for the projects it is undertaking.

The pathway lighting is one of three of MVA's large destination enhancement projects. The two others are the complete renovation of Banzai Cliff and the Flower Island Project that seeks to rebrand the CNMI as a "Flower Island."

BSI makes over $43K donations to NMI community

Maintaining a commitment to community and service, Best Sunshine International Ltd. has established a corporate social responsibility office with the goal of making meaningful and impactful contributions to the CNMI community.

To date, the office has made $43,234 in contributions to education, sports, government organizations, and 13 non-profit organizations. Some of the beneficiaries of funding for educational programs included Marianas High School, Admiral Hopwood Jr. High School, and the Junior Statesmen of America who received funds for student performances, competitions, cultural clubs, and helping to sponsor government and policy summer programs held at Ivy League universities.

In addition to programs for education, Best Sunshine has also made donations to programs for youth development, including the CNMI Little League Baseball Association, the CNMI Rollers Basketball Association, and the Northern Marianas Sports Foundation to cover costs for prizes, program booklets, volunteer shirts, uniforms and to sponsor the 2015 Basketball Invitational Tournament.

Best Sunshine has also made donations to the Saipan Unity Lions Club which provides services to the youth of the CNMI. Saipan Unity Lions Club programs include a youth diabetic awareness program and providing activities for out-of-school programs.

In addition to providing funding for youth programs, Best Sunshine has also made it a goal to aid local institutions that impact the CNMI community. Such institutions include the San Antonio Parish, which received funds for the renovation of their Sanctuary; the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to help with the provision for the education and formation of seminarians and clergy; and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Fiesta Community, which received help to sponsor their annual religious fiesta.

Best Sunshine has also contributed to the United Filipino Organization to help celebrate the 117th Philippine Independence Day.

This summer, Best Sunshine also made donations of sponsorship to local corporate associations like HANMI and to the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort Inc. Furthermore, in-kind donations were made to assist the people of Rota after the effects of Typhoon Dolphin and to the Tinian municipal treasurer to develop their summer wellness program. ***(PR)***

USP4GG join global protest against China

Members of the USP4GG on Saipan hold banners and flags in Garapan last Friday to protest what they described as China's "invasion, occupation, and militarization" of the West Philippine Sea. FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance in various parts of the world staged a protest rally against China's "invasion, occupation, and militarization of West Philippine Sea" last July 24.

On Saipan, USP4GG members gathered on Beach Road across the Sunleader store, holding banners and flags against China's government and calling for a boycott of its products.

"I don't like what the Chinese government is doing trespassing in the Philippines. If we go there and do the same to them will they like it? I don't think so," Teddy Guiao said, adding that he will encourage Filipino workers on Saipan to boycott Chinese products as well.

"We want to remind the public of this cause that we have," Johnny Jacayan said.

Motorists passing by honked in support of the group.

According to Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG CNMI and Guam, Marianas Chapter, July 24 marked the third anniversary of the creation of China's Sansha prefecture that supposedly administers the whole South China Sea, including West Philippine Sea.

This is the third year that USP4GG has been holding the protest rally.

"USP4GG initiated this global protest, then some coalition in the Philippines also followed to do the global protest," Lamkin said.

Lamkin, who was in Guam, said that their handful of members were also able to reach out to many motorists.

"So far, we are getting bigger because of the newly formed movement and alliance called MARCHA or the Movement and Alliance to resist China's Aggression in the Philippines," Lamkin said. "We have reached out to more countries now than in the past years."

In New York, USP4GG national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis led the protest rally in front of the Chinese Consulate General. In San Francisco, the protest rally was attended by the Filipino-American veterans of World War II and the U.S. Pinoys in San Francisco and the Bay Area. There were protests also in Los Angeles as well as in Canada, France, London, and Ireland.

"In the Philippines, different towns and provinces now are more involved because in the past, the rally was only held in Makati," Lamkin said.

She reported that more than 500 gathered to protest at the Chinese Consulate in Makati, Manila. Rallies were also held in various places such as Rizal, Cagayan de Oro, Olongapo City, and Tarlac.

Company fined $1K for not posting JVA in DOL website

For failing to post its job vacancy announcement in the CNMI Department of Labor's website, a company has sanctioned with a fine of $1,000.

DOL's Administrative Hearing Office ordered AC Pacific, LLC, which does business as Star Sands, to pay half of the fine. The other half may be suspended for one year and then extinguished if the company complies with DOL's regulations on job vacancy announcements.

The order said the employer failed to post job vacancy announcements at the DOL's website, while it posted the same announcements in a local newspaper.

The department earlier sought a $2,000 penalty but because of the company's good track record in hiring U.S. qualified workers—51 out of its 91 full-time work force consist of U.S. citizens—it was given considerations.

It noted that this 56 percent is well above the minimum 30 percent set by rules.

The order also favored AC Pacific in stating that the company did not fail in giving job preference as well as making good faith effort to hire citizens and permanent residents.

However, DOL warned that any failure of AC Pacific in the future to post job vacancy announcements on their website or failure to post employer's declaration in a timely manner will result to reinstatement of the suspended fine as well as additional sanctions. ***(Frauleine S. Villanueva)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6822/23/24 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu • Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 15-004
ROOF REPLACEMENT, BUILDING J, NMC AS TERLAJE, SAIPAN CAMPUS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bid for the Roof Replacement of Building J at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje, Saipan Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, commencing Tuesday, June 30, 2015 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection for interested person, firms and corporation will be held on July 14, 2015 at 10:00am, NMC Procurement Management Office, Bldg. L, 2nd floor, conference room.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 31, 2015, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This procurement is 100% Federally Funded by the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration Resource Development

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Solid Waste Collection Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The successful bidder will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of the CPA.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor at the Arrival Building beginning July 28, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Solid Waste Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, project No. CPA-IFB-007-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00am, August 20, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure a contract for services.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/
MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: 22, July 2015

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: RFP15-CHCC/CGC-109
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 03, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

Copies of the RFP packet may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

CNMI visitor arrivals grow 8 percent in June

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands in June 2015 were up 8 percent compared to June 2014. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 38,342 visitors in June 2015, compared to 35,638 visitors received in June 2014.

"Arrivals were up 8 percent in June and so far this fiscal year, total visitors arrivals are up 13 percent compared to the same period last year, but there is still work to be done," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "While Korea and China are healthy, we continue to work on reviving the Japan market and we are actively seeking opportunities for the restoration of direct flights from Russia."

Arrivals from Korea jumped 48 percent in June to 13,985 visitors. Asiana Airlines has been operating summer charter flights four times weekly from July 7 to Aug. 16 using an A321 with 171 seats and the MVA has been working with the airline and major travel agencies to promote and boost sales through various channels to convert this seasonal charter service to new regular flight service.

Arrivals from China were almost the same compared to June 2014 at 14,894 visitors. Century Tours plans to operate four charter flights a week from Beijing to Saipan from July 12 until Aug. 19 instead of the current three flights a week. Dynamic Airways is also planning to launch new charter flights from Hong Kong to Saipan from July 19, operating three times a week and targeting the South China market. This increased airlift ensures continuing strong growth from the China market for the summer season and into the fall.

Arrivals from Japan fell 17 percent to 6,305 visitors without any charter flights from Japan to the NMI during the month of June. Delta Air Lines and major Japanese travel agents are working with the MVA to launch a major summer campaign designed to boost arrivals from the Japan market in July, August, and September. In addition, the MVA continues to actively seek possibilities to increase airlift to the NMI, with a particular focus on negotiations to secure new flights to Saipan direct non-stop from the Osaka market.

Economic highlights

The Japanese government kept its opinion of the economy unchanged for June 2015, but upgraded its view on capital spending as companies moved to increase investment. During the month of June, the yen continued to depreciate against the U.S. dollar, to 123.84 yen to the dollar. A recent JATA survey of Japan`s top five travel agencies about the status of outbound travel for the 2015 summer period (July 1 – Sept. 30) showed that demand for summer vacations this year is shifting, from July to September, due to the good positioning of national holidays in September`s Silver Week holiday period, which will allow Japanese travelers to take longer vacations overseas.

Increased domestic spending had stimulated the South Korean economy, which, before the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, was facing stiff challenges from falling exports. The South Korean won/dollar exchange rate rose 12.44 won over the past month to close at 1,126.89 against the U.S. dollar. ***(MVA)***

Navy Hill water main break results in emergency temporary water outage

A major water line break along Navy Hill Sunday evening has left Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the surrounding areas without water service.

CUC customers living along Navy Hill between Magas Loop and Gloria Drive, as well as customers in Chinatown and Upper Mihaville, lost water service Sunday evening when the 12-inch water main burst at the eastern entrance to Magas Loop.

CUC contractor GPPC Inc. began working with CUC engineers and operations staff to identify the cause of the break Monday morning and will continue until all repairs are made.

"As work will be performed at the site through the night, CUC urges drives to take special precautions to ensure the safety of our crews and our contractors," said CUC in a statement yesterday.

While no timeline is available for the completion of repairs, acting executive director John Riegel believes full water service will be restored to the affected areas today, July 28.

For more information about the project, contact CUC's 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

Green Gala tickets now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's largest fundraiser of the year. With proceeds going toward the ongoing work to conserve the diverse natural resources of the region, this year is even more special, as MINA celebrates 10 years of working with communities to sustain the natural environment to ensure the island way of life.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented various projects, including the Plastic Bag Challenge, Obyan Rehabilitation Project, Managaha Pride Campaign, Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, Marine Debris Prevention Program, Tasi Watch Program, and Adopt-A-Bin Program, which has placed recycle bins at all the major beaches on the island.

To date, MINA has received support from various businesses for this year's Green Gala, including The Shack Saipan, Bridge Capital LLC, Herman's Modern Bakery, Pacifica Insurance, Pacific Islands Club, and Monika's Gallery. In addition to lively entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early. Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members. For more information on the Green Gala, or to find out more about MINA's various projects, contact 233-REEF (7333). ***(MINA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance board member Eleanor Cabrera poses with attendees at last year's Green Gala.

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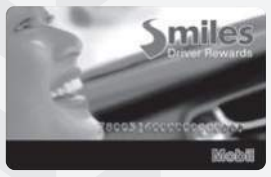

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HANMI occupancy, room rates on 5-year growth trend

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 83.77 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for June 2015, a 4-percent increase compared to June 2014.

A total fo 57,597 of 68,090 available room nights sold in June 2015, compared to 54,962 of 69,090 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $119.19 during the month, compared to $111.13 last June.

"Since 2011, both hotel occupancy rates and room rates have been steadily rising as our hotels, the government, and the community have all worked together to revive the tourism industry," said HANMI chairwoman Gloria Cavanagh.

"There's an old adage, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" added Cavanagh. "After saying in 2013 that they wanted to negotiate new public land leases with several of our hotels, now the Department of Public Lands wants to open our properties to the highest bidders without even giving us the opportunity to negotiate first. We believe fulfilling 'fiduciary duty' should consider concepts such as reliability, longevity, loyalty, and certainty, and we hope DPL will reconsider and renew negotiations. Why get rid of good investors who are already making money for the CNMI? The best interest for the CNMI is to have the existing HANMI hotels and new investors both operating, both paying taxes, both paying leases and both employ our local people."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 86.13 percent, 2 percent higher than last year. Additionally, average room rates have increased by 7 percent compared to the same period last fiscal year.

HANMI, celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(HANMI)***

Lawmakers set meeting with SHEFA on more funding

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation are set to meet with the board of directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance to discuss funding concerns for the scholarship program.

"Yes, they [SHEFA] approached us on the possibility of getting more funds," said delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Sablan also confirmed that the SHEFA has requested for more funding, particularly for the hiring of a legal counsel and other administrative purposes.

"According to the SHEFA board, their request for additional funding will go to operations. They also need a legal counsel and additional funding because they are transferring their offices," Sablan said.

But the lawmaker said the delegation has yet to schedule the meeting.

Sablan said another possible item on the agenda, should the meeting push through, is a report from SHEFA regarding its grant recipients.

Earlier, Oscar Babauta, chairman of the SHEFA board, disclosed that SHEFA is seeking for more operational funds.

The board's operational funding has remained unchanged for years and Babauta said the board plans to "seek an audience" with members of the SNILD.

The board plans to request an amendment to an existing law on the SHEFA board's operational budget.

"The operational budget is about $100,000, which has stayed the same through the years. We have to consider the growth of the island, the need for SHEFA to have its own legal counsel, and other concerns," Babauta said.

He said the board will not "ask for huge funds" but enough to address its budgetary "constraints."

Babauta said the board plans to make the request after it meets by the end of the month.

He said the SHEFA board will also work on a report on the status of recipients of grants.

In May, House floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) and other SNILD lawmakers requested SHEFA to provide data on how many of its beneficiaries have actually reported back to the CNMI after receiving financial assistance. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

NMC to host free info session on Aug. 5

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend a free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be from 5pm to 6pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The topics include the college's new bachelor's degree in Business Management, financial aid options, Prior Learning Assessment program, and other initiatives.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

The deadline for submitting admission applications for the fall 2015 semester is on July 31, 2015, but the college is making an exception for those who attend the info session. Those who plan to submit an admission application for the fall 2015 semester must submit it at the info session.

Additionally, those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2015 semester. This represents a savings of up to $75.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (new); associate degrees business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Nominees sought for 2015 Bridge of Light awardee

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is now accpeting nominations for the 2015 Bridge of Light Award, which is given each year to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one individual who has worked to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

Nomination forms are available for pick up and submission at the NMCADSV office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai next to New XO Market, or may be emailed upon request and availability through kiki@endviolencenmi.org. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. The deadline to submit complete nomination forms is on Monday, Aug. 31, 2015.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-5498. ***(NMCADSV)***

GREAT JOB! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Kelvin Wolf for his excellent performance at the National Junior Speech & Debate, National Tournament in Dallas, Texas. Wolf, representing the CNMI, managed to barge into the Top 5, beating out more than 1,600 other competitors from all over the United States. Wolf would like to thank those who supported him in this wonderful accomplishment: 360 Restaurant, Babes Benedicto, Barney's Pizza, BSEA Inc., Consul Eli Arago, Eric Plinskie, Els Auto Shop, Herman's Bakery, Java Joe's, John Tenorio, Law Office of Bruce Berline, Marianas Medical, Marpac, Mascot, Napa Auto Parts, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, Quinn Consulting, Saipan Shipping, Seventh Day Adventist, Triple J Motors, Wendi Herring, HJHS Administration, Manny and Luci Vitug, his inspiring Auntie Ana, Farah and Jackie Tani, John and Magdalena Sarmiento, and Miles and Evelyn King.

Temporary water outage on Capital Hill today

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Capital Hill will experience a temporary water service interruption today, July 28, as crews continue work on the Capitol Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project.

At 8am, CUC will temporarily interrupt water service to customers on Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge, and portions of Chalan Galaide to allow CUC's contractor, Maeda Inc., to connect the new water main to the current distribution line on Capital Hill.

Work on the project is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time water service will be restored to the area. CUC also encourages all customers in the affected communities to conserve water and that those who have water tanks and cisterns ensure their on-site equipment is fully functional and sanitary.

For more information about the project, contact our 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

IN APPRECIATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mable Ayuyu, left, chairperson of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals Committee, presents a plaque of appreciation to a Shack employee, Gloria Hunter, and Svetlana Hunter for the event hosted on June 29. The Shack was the venue for June's SYP mixer. Next mixer will be on July 31 at Club C!

Temporary water outage on Wednesday

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in San Jose and Oleai will experience a temporary water service interruption on Wednesday, July 29, as crews continue work on the Department of Public Works' Texas Road Improvement Project.

At 8am, CUC will temporarily interrupt water service to customers in San Jose and Oleai to allow DPW's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to divert a 10-inch water main in San Jose in order to make way for the road improvements.

Work on the project is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time water service will be restored to the area. Customers in the vicinity may temporarily experience higher than normal chlorine levels as part of the sanitization process when the main is put back into service. CUC advises customers to run the water until the chlorine level is reduced.

CUC also encourages all customers in the affected communities to conserve water and that those who have water tanks and cisterns ensure their on-site equipment is fully functional and sanitary.

For more information about the project, contact our 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

New Lions Club officers and members inducted

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions Clubs under District 204 Region 2 held a joint induction night at Kanoa Resort's Latte Stone Room last Saturday.

Aside from Lion officers and members on Saipan, among those present in the ceremony were delegates from Guam including district governor Daniel Yang, past district governor Goring Duenas, past district governor Herbie Perez, cabinet secretary Zenaida Cachila, and first vice district governor Linda Tolan.

"The Lion Year I have as a dream is that we could get together again and serve our community harmoniously," Yang said in his speech.

Also at the induction was Philippine Honorary Consul and lion Glicerio Arago.

"I urge our new officers and to all of us CNMI Lions Club members to sustain the meaningful alliances we have fostered in this community. This is the only way we will see a transformed CNMI community. This is the only way we will bring about our central purpose: to be of service to the community we work and live in," Arago said in his welcoming remarks.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang was the clubs' guest of honor.

"I want you to know that my office is open to you and everyone. My office will help you in any way it can so that you could continue accomplishing your tasks in the most sensible way: by working together," Apatang said.

The induction proper for officers of the two clubs—the Saipan Filipino-Americans Lions Club and the Saipan Marianas Lions Club—was headed by Duenas.

Presidents for this year are Annamae Adaza for SFALC and Olivia Yana for SMLC.

For Adaza, increasing membership in the club is her No. 1 concern.

"Virtually, the only thing of value in the Lions organization from top to bottom is its members. They are the only real asset that this organization has," Adaza said.

Yana said she wants to encourage more people to be more of service.

"For me, there is no such thing as small people when it comes to service," Yana said. "On my term, I wish to tap those people, to bring more leaders amongst those who have not been a part of any organization before but wishes to share a part of themselves, to being of more service volunteers to Lions Clubs."

Other SFALC officers are Reynado Joson as first vice president, Ariel Terrado as second vice president, Mario Mayuga as secretary, Arceli Lizama as treasurer, Rizally DL Joson as assistant treasurer, Sonia Laserna as tail twister, Federico Ortiz as lion tamer, Arturo Anchita as safety officer, Arago as membership director, and Anastacia Japson, Vilma Embotorio, Reynaldo Ortiz and Aurelia Rodriguez as directors.

The new SMLC officers are Lolita Velasco as first vice president, Guillermo Canape Jr. as second vice president, Ladyvir DLC Canape as secretary, Ellen Delos Santos as assistant secretary, Florenda Miranda as treasurer, Leticia Canching as assistant treasurer, Domingo Dones as auditor, Evangeline Galvez as public relations officer, Remegio Cabulit as lion tamer/custodian, Teresita Tan as lion tail twister, Nelida Atalig as membership chair, Lorna Baro as assistant membership chair, and Alma Famat, Lolita Albarico, Linda Alomia, and Emil Garra as directors.

Regional officers were also inducted that night. As members of the cabinet, Yana was inducted as district assistant secretary, Miranda as district assistant treasurer, Adaza as district asstant PRO, and Canape Jr. as assistant district safety officer.

Ladyvir Canape and Mario Mayuga were sworn in as region chair and zone chair respectively.

Four new members were inducted for SFALC: Heida Elijay, Jasminda Domingo, Leonila Mendoza, and Cherry Casila.

For SMLC, six pledged their membership: Marilou Paet, Larcy Chariton, Adoracion DLC Torres, Elizabeth Ramos, Delia Johnson, and Markyn Dougherty.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Two Lions Clubs on Saipan held their joint induction and was attended by delegates from Guam as well as Saipan Mayor David Apatang.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
The new officers of Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club and Saipan Marianas Lions Club after their joint induction last Saturday at Kanoa Resort.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
New Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club president Annamae Adaza receives the club gavel from now past president Nenita Marquez.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Olive Yana and immediate past president Nelida Atalig pose after the symbolic passing of the gavel.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Hacking a Jeep

The article in *Wired* this week was like something out of a Hollywood thriller. As writer Andy Greenberg sped down the highway in a Jeep Cherokee, the radio started blasting hip hop, the air conditioning unexpectedly turned on, the wipers activated—and then the SUV switched itself into neutral. Or rather, hackers on laptops miles away switched it into neutral. They later disabled its brakes so that it ran into a ditch.

The tale plays into the public's worst technophobic nightmare: that our smart machines might do us harm. The problem with the Jeep was that its manufacturer, Chrysler, didn't follow a basic rule of security, which is to keep the parts that communicate with the outside world completely separate from the parts that control the crucial systems, such as steering and brakes. Yet Jeep's practices are typical of the auto industry, which has raced to add Internet-connected information, entertainment and emergency systems without walling them off from internal communications channels. To hackers, any electronic pathway out of a car is also a way in. And with a growing number of internal car functions being controlled by chips and software, the list of things that could conceivably be commandeered by hackers is steadily expanding.

Granted, it took Greenberg's hackers—a pair of security researchers who warned him in advance about what they were doing—months to find a way to take over a Jeep through its entertainment system, and Chrysler has already issued a software update to plug that hole. Nevertheless, the incident should set off alarms throughout the industry, which still relies on protocols developed long before cars could connect electronically to other, potentially hostile devices. Security experts say there has been no concerted effort by automakers or parts suppliers to redesign internal communications channels to guard against attackers. Yet the risks will only grow as more vehicles add features that require the car to communicate digitally with the world around it.

The same day Wired published Greenberg's Jeep piece, Sens. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., introduced a bill to require the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration to develop security and privacy standards for vehicle electronics and offer ratings on how well they guard against hackers. Although mandating a specific security approach would be a bad idea—lawmakers and regulators can't keep pace with ever-changing technology—having the agency shepherd the industry's efforts to identify and respond to vulnerabilities would be welcome. And putting a security grade next to the mileage estimate on a new car's sticker would bring needed pressure on the industry to make vehicles more resistant to hackers before they hit the showroom floor.

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Parents' Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

We made it back to Marianas' soil for Parents' Day. Not one of the Chamber of Commerce's favorite days of observance since the 1920 impetus was to replace Mother's and Father's Days and make them as one but we quietly got the parents on our holiday sight yesterday without getting mother and father out of the shopping lists, so the business home front stayed cozy at the mullah count.

Held on the fourth Sunday of July, the current observance was established by Bill Clinton in 1994 in a congressional resolution signed into law for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children."

All my children are reared, so I am now a grandpa, though in absentia since my four young 'uns (all boys) are either into visual arts in Illinois or into martial arts in California. Only my grandma on my father side is the one I remember, my mother orphaned early and my father the runt of the litter, so by the time I saw his mother, she was a doting 90-year-old in tobacco country of Ilocandia who dubla (rolled) her own reefer that she enjoyed at least one per day until she was 95.

She probably got all that nicotine into her lungs but she skipped the chemicals that went with the filters in Marlboro country (I turned 25 by the Tar Heels on the slopes of the Piedmont in the Carolinas of Phillip Morris) so cancer was not a number that knocked at her door.

It was tobacco that got us coughing last week. One of my colleagues hightailed it to Inner Mongolia with his father and left a pack of Club 20 Monte Cristo from Havana, Cuba, at the office and though I cold-turkeyed in the mid-'80s, it had been a while since I sniffed a clean tobacco scent from the land of the Castro brothers in the Caribbean. With diplomatic relations getting established, a puff was in order.

My house requires I step out into the back garden to take a drag but mosquitoes equally thought the weather was fine so I took my Habano to the air vent in the toilet.

The first drag was too rich for my unaccustomed throat and I convulsed like I got epileptic seizure but being seated on the commode au naturel made the coughing on one end empty the content of the intestinal cavity on the other end, so the discomfort and the relief occurred at the same time. Stubborn as hell, I took a couple more cautious and regulated drags before hitting the shower.

It was Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court who said: "Replacing Mother's Day and Father's Day with a Parents' Day should be considered as an observance more consistent with a policy of minimizing traditional sex-based differences in parental roles." But the Galleria has too many scarves and neckties to sell so we now keep three shopping days. To its credit, like the "day on" observance of the civil rights movements, Parents' Day focuses on what parents do rather than what gift we can get them.

This parent-teacher in the last three weeks was to tutor one of the students at Shenyang Aerospace University on oral English. The young fellow is a cadet doing simulated flying of a Cessna 172, an electric plane pioneered by the university. The young fellow wishes to attend a flying school in Dallas, Texas (in the city of my alma mater, me and Laura Bush) if he could get his spoken English clear and spontaneous enough, and understandable.

Our cadet failed three English classes so far, and he does not understand why. He is a recognized leader in his class. All his teachers were foreigners—a Filipina, a Niponggo, and a Brit, and charges all of them as prejudiced against an assertive local.

Confucius has three categories for students: the first studied and learned his lessons (girls did not study in Kongzi's time), a second had not studied but is willing to learn, and the third studied, had not learned anything, but thinks of himself as educated. Our cadet who hails from Confucius neighborhood fits the third category.

Parading his knowledge of China's history, our cadet went into the period of the three kingdoms of the Wei, Shu and Wu, timing it before the Qin dynasty. Not one to parade my little knowledge of Chinese history, I went back to my computer and discovered that the three kingdoms was after the Han, which came after the Qin. His chronology was off but since space and role is more locally important than time and rationale, I let it pass.

When he indicated that he had never heard of Mukden before (name for Shenyang to Russia and the Japanese Manchukuo), I made the unfortunate comment that perhaps, I knew more of China's history than he did. He hit the ceiling, or more precisely, I crossed the mienzi (face) and ran smacked on his well oiled self-esteem.

For now, let's hear it from the parents!

Editor's note: The foregoing was submitted for printing sent from China when we had the Internet blackout so the copies are now just catching up. We will have them printed daily this week.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Artificial intelligence and real stupidity: Our future?

By DICK MEYER
Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com.

WASHINGTON—It is the great philosophic debate of the computer age: Artificial intelligence—good or evil?

The optimists, some might call them utopians, argue that the computational power of machines—their intelligence—inevitably will become greater than human intelligence.

Intelligence this powerful may be hard to imagine now, but it will be able to solve problems we think are unsolvable. It will improve the lives of humans and ultimately save the species, even if the planet is a goner.

Some AI believers call this mega-intelligence by a godly name—The Singularity.

The dystopians don't disagree that AI might have superhuman intelligence some day, but they think it is irrational and mystical to believe it inevitably will be a force of good.

It could be neutral, like most technology. Or it could be evil. The Singularity could control us dumb humans in mean and nasty ways. Volumes and volumes of science fiction play with this nightmare scenario.

Obviously, my natural and wholly organic intelligence is too tiny to really understand any of this, much less have a strong opinion. But there is a third camp, I've discovered, that I am tempted to join. Their great worry isn't artificial intelligence; it's artificial stupidity, or AS.

An example of AS might be faulty programming that crashes the U.S. power grid. Seems plausible, almost likely, right? An example of artificial super-stupidity, or ASS, would be a global Internet crash—no Web, nowhere, no way can we survive that for long.

Everything in my personal history with computers and smart devices leads me to paranoia about AS. It's scarier when you factor in interaction with us featherless bipeds and our limited computational capacities. The logarithm is something like: AS x IQ = hot mess.

As a case study, let's look at a common technological device: the "smart thermostat." In my house, we actually call it the "dumb thermostat."

I read with great interest a story in The Washington Post recently about an important new study in the journal Energy Research and Social Science.

If I may summarize: Most people don't know how to use their programmable (smart) thermostat, use it improperly, or have given up trying. Homeowners tend to leave them in the "hold" position, rendering them dumb, not smart.

As I understand it, the smart thermostat is a less complex system than, say, the computers that control nuclear plants and air traffic. Yet interactions between the devices (AS) and their human masters (IQ) succeed little more than half the time.

We recently installed what was billed as the simplest of all the smart thermostats. The instruction booklet was terrific unless you require pictures that match the actual thermostat and sentences that use words in some type of syntax.

I waddled through all that and eventually the little screens indicated it was all set to minimize our energy use. The system then did what the screens said—fairly often. Sometimes.

The thermostat's interactions with other members of our homestead were somewhat less successful. Casting no blame at all, the combination of AS and IQ appeared to be less than the sum of the two.

It is possible, as the company's customer service people suggested, that a nefarious Albanian hacker ring had infiltrated our thermostat. But I think it is an AS issue.

I find this ample cause to worry about the future of the species and the planet.

Case Study II: The TV. (I know, I know—there really isn't such a thing as a TV anymore, sadly.)

I've pitted my peace of mind against two home renovations in recent years. The only abject failures in each project (the thermostat is a semi-failure) were the TVs. TVs are now controlled by AI though IQs are the only ones who watch them.

We begged for the simplest setups and were assured that's what we got. Maybe we did. We didn't even try to program them ourselves.

Bottom line: Most of the time we eventually can watch what we want. But it's always an adventure. The buttons do what the guys said they would most of the time. When they don't, we hit off and on a lot and pray to The Singularity.

Sometimes the DVD player goes on strike for a couple of weeks. I counted, and there are roughly 475 viewing options and enhanced features that I have never considered using.

We only need to bring in the specialists to help a couple times a year; they press the same buttons we do, sometimes for a minute, sometimes for two hours. They said we weren't especially inept IQs.

But AS is mopping the floor with us. And this, too, reaffirms my pessimism.

I'm going to avoid pondering the distant future too much. But I don't really believe that the ratio of smart to stupid is going to change a whole lot in the natural or artificial realms.

It is worth remembering, though, that often "stupid but kind" has served humankind better than "smart but mean." Artificial emotions, however, aren't in the chips.

Why Gawker, and gossip, are good

By MARIA BUSTILLOS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week the gossip site Gawker published a story apparently outing a heterosexually married New York media executive of high social class, connections and reputation. The material came from a gay male escort who had tried and failed to persuade the executive in question to help him resolve a housing dispute. Because of the subject's relatively low public profile, and the impression that he had "done the right thing" in not pulling strings, the piece was widely denounced as the gratuitous "doxxing" of a private individual. Gawker's noisy enemies, from the Men's Rights Activists of Gamergate to the soi-disant "free speech" libertarians of Reddit, had a field day.

Quickly, Gawker management issued a mea culpa. CEO Nick Denton wrote a post explaining his decision to take the piece down against the express wishes of the site's editors and writers, culminating in the resignations, announced Monday, of Gawker's editor-in-chief, Max Read, and its executive editor, Tommy Craggs.

I am sorry to think that the executive's sexual practices may have come as a surprise to his family. But I can't help but approve that Gawker was—as it has consistently been and, I hope, will remain—unwilling to aid the rich and powerful in concealing their secrets.

With journalism increasingly controlled by corporate entities that want to avoid offending advertisers and their readers' sensibilities, we need Gawker most desperately. Maybe the escort story was worth publishing, and maybe not, but it's a positive thing for our society that Gawker cuts it close. Recent history shows that shameless gossip is good.

On July 6, the Associated Press persuaded a judge to unseal court records in which Bill Cosby admitted to drugging multiple women and having sex with them. The grotesque callousness with which Cosby describes these "relationships" has forever shattered the actor's genial, gentle, tough-but-fair father-figure image.

Who set Cosby's downfall in motion? Gawker did.

In a short essay published Feb. 4, 2014, Gawker's Tom Scocca meditated on the public's reluctance to accept upsetting information about beloved celebrities. He compared the situation of Woody Allen—whose adoptive daughter had just published an open letter claiming he'd abused her—to that of Cosby, who'd been accused of sex crimes eight years earlier with no consequence to his reputation.

"Basically nobody wanted to live in a world where Bill Cosby was a sexual predator," Scocca wrote. "Conceptually, (forgetting) was the sensible way to deal with it."

For this observation, Gawker received a heap of criticism. The Wrap asked why the "old sexual abuse allegations" were being "dredged up"; objections appeared on Twitter as well, claiming, for example, that it was #gross to "give cover" to Allen by reminding readers of Cosby's accusers.

But not everyone was so dismissive. Comedian Hannibal Buress tweeted a link to Scocca's story. Then Buress began speaking out against Cosby in his stand-up set. "That ... is upsetting. If you didn't know about it, trust me. You leave here and google 'Bill Cosby rape.' It's not funny. That ... has more results than 'Hannibal Buress.'"

A bit later, the Atlantic's Ta-Nehisi Coates cited Scocca's piece in an essay reflecting on his own failure to thoroughly investigate the accusations in a Cosby profile he'd written in 2008. "I don't have many writing regrets," Coates said. "But this is one of them ... I take it as a personal admonition to always go there, to never flinch, to never look away."

Without Scocca's piece, the "looking away" might have stretched on forever.

Nor is Cosby the only celebrity moralist that Gawker has exposed as a fraud. In May, the site published court transcripts in the vicious divorce of Fox broadcaster Bill O'Reilly, including the testimony of O'Reilly's teenage daughter, who said she had witnessed her father "choking her mom" as he "dragged her down some stairs" by the neck.

In 2010, Gawker faced public outrage (very like last week's) over its publication of the account of a man who claimed that Republican Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell had spent a drunken night with him. Despite objections from O'Donnell's Democratic opponent and the National Organization for Women, Gawker's editorial staff posted a gleeful justification of its decision to publish.

"Christine O'Donnell is seeking federal office based in part on her self-generated, and carefully tended, image as a sexually chaste woman. She lies about who she is; she tells that lie in service of an attempt to impose her private sexual values on her fellow citizens; and she's running for Senate. We thought information documenting that lie—that O'Donnell does not live a chaste life as she defines the word, and in fact hops into bed, naked and drunk, with men that she's just met—was of interest to our readers."

The cost of this public service—exposing the lies of the powerful, no matter how unpleasant—is the occasional overstep. Gawker's editors may err occasionally on the side of excessive zeal, but at least, unlike most in the media, they can be counted on never to fawn or flatter.

Maria Bustillos is a Los Angeles journalist and critic. She has written for Gawker Media on a freelance basis. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the warmth, hospitality

I am one of the staff responsible for overseas school trips at Hiroshima Johoku Gakuen, a boys junior and senior high school in Hiroshima, Japan.

Last November, I had the privilege of escorting 130 students and eight staff to your beautiful island on a four-night, five-day trip that included homestay with local families. After the trip, the feedback from our students was overwhelmingly positive. It is thanks to generosity and hard work of the Mayor's Office, the staff and students of Southern High School, the families that hosted our students, and our Saipan-based agent, Mr. Yoshizawa, of Saipan Business & Language Institute, that this trip was a great success.

Many staff and students commented on the warmth and hospitality felt during the trip. An obvious example of this is that 130 students were welcomed into peoples' homes and treated as one of the family. However, other less obvious examples include welcome announcements being made at the Garapan Street Market and residents stopping us to ask how our trip is going; students at Southern High School going out of their way to talk to us and ask about Japan; volunteers joining us when we went to Managaha to ensure our students' safety when in the sea, and even drivers waiting patiently for 130 students and staff to cross the road.

In many ways, it is the accumulation of these small things that made us feel so welcome on your beautiful island, and on behalf of all the staff, students and families of Hiroshima Johoku, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the people of Saipan.

I am fortunate to be escorting another group to Saipan in October and am currently arranging a trip for a third group in 2016. I am sure that these trips will be equally as successful and I am looking forward to many more trips in the future.

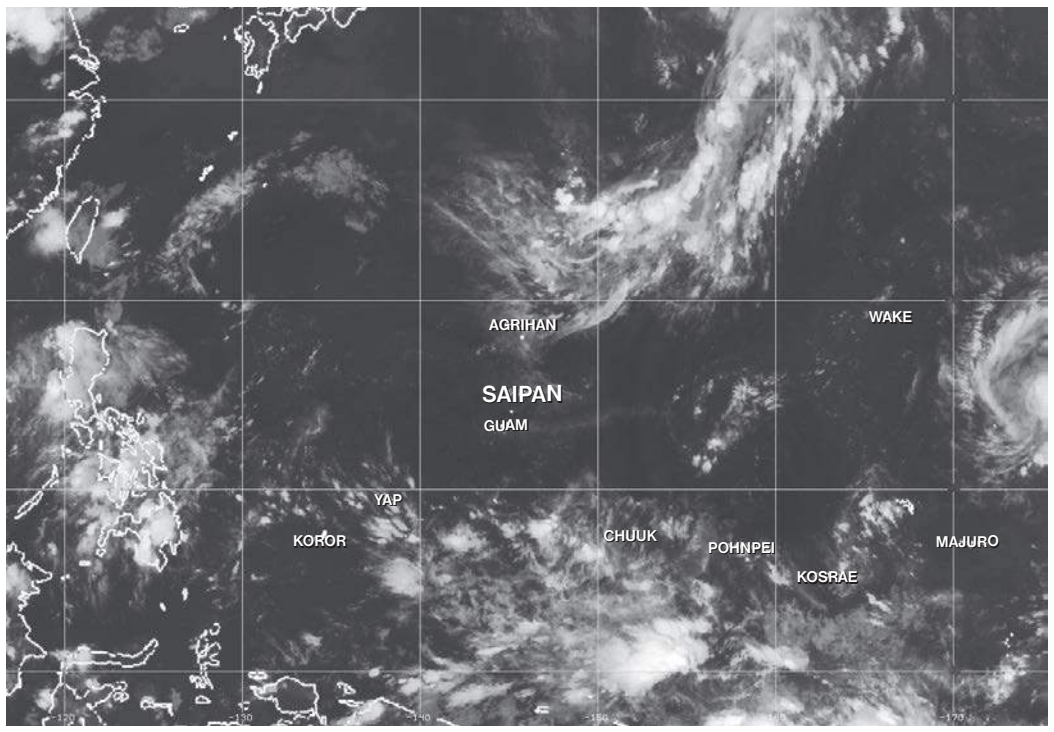
Matt Branch
Hiroshima Johoku Gakuen

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. West to southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. West to southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESSDAY, JULY 28, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from 10N130E across Yap and northern parts of Chuuk and Pohnpei states through a weak circulation near Majuro at 7N170E to beyond the date line at 8N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Koror are west of a line from 8N133E to 2N133E and far south of Yap south of 3N from 135E to 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across southern Chuuk state are between the equator and 7N from 142E to 157E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 4N from 157E to 168E. A surface trough curves northeastward from the circulation at 7N170E with scattered heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Majuro and east of Utirik between 10N and 18N from 172E to 180. Low pressure is centered north of Minami Tori Shima with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of 21N from 147E to 159E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼50
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲89	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲88	▼77
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼43
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲94	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼75
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Paris	Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲90	▼71
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲92	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼75

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
7:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:45 PM	2:35 AM
Wednesday	4:41 PM	3:29 AM
Thursday	5:36 PM	4:26 AM
Friday	6:31 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	7:24 PM	6:27 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

TOC receives $5K donation from Tan Holdings

As part of its commitment to support projects that benefit the community and that promote the CNMI as a premier destination, Tan Holdings has announced that it has donated in-kind support and cash totaling $5,000 to the Tournament of Champions golf tournament, which will be held this weekend on Aug. 1 and 2.

"Many local community projects, including those that are now enjoyed by residents and tourists alike, were made possible by funds raised from the Tournament of Champions," said David Sablan of Tan Holdings. "We are happy to be a part of the event's 20th anniversary this year!"

"The Tan Holdings has been a longtime support of the Tournament of Champions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We applaud the company for its generosity and its commitment to supporting the community."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the planning committee for the 2015 Tournament of Champions pose with David Sablan, Tan Holdings corporate consultant, sixth from right, with their donation. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Joeten Motors, Triple J Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

SYP features legislative leaders for Inspirational Speakers Night in July

On July 16, the Saipan Young Professionals Committee featured both a past and a present member of the CNMI House of Representatives for their "Inspirational Speakers Night." The committee designated July as "Government Month," focusing on leaders within the CNMI Legislature.

This Inspirational Speakers Night featured current Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and former representative Janet U. Maratita. As a young professional and current member of the 19th Legislature, Villagomez shared information about the process to run for a seat in the House of Representatives, and shared his experience with current bills and resolutions he has personally introduced throughout his terms. He shared the importance of having a "passion" to serve the people of the CNMI, especially for young professionals aspiring to be government leaders in the future. He discussed the difficult and timely process that lawmakers must face when introducing bills and the critical need for representatives to involve their community members during the process. In closing, he emphasized that "if you do what is right for your community, the public will recognize your good work." He also urged young professionals to stand up for what is right, despite the challenges that may come. Villagomez also encouraged young professionals to run for office and to make a positive difference for the people of the CNMI.

Former lawmaker Maratita gave a female's perspective and insight on her life before, during, and after her terms as a representative. The theme of her speech centered on "perseverance." She shared her struggles as a mother and the turning point in her life that inspired her to run for a seat in the House of Representatives. She also shared the challenges that she, as a female, faced in the House of Representatives whose members were (and still are) predominantly male. She said that, although she lost a few elections, she remained confident and persevered through. She stated that after her terms in office, she remains active in her community, dedicating her time to various community organizations. Her advice for SYP members was to have perseverance even in the most challenging of circumstances. She also stated that entering politics is difficult and that you must be strong, willing, and able to serve for the greater good.

"As young professionals, it's important to continue learning from past and present leaders in our community. A part of the SYP mission to 'inspire young professionals to influence positive change.' By meeting inspirational speakers, we're able to gain the education needed to be better leaders ready and willing to influence positive change for our future," said SYP chair Mable Ayuyu.

Both presentations provided SYP members with an in-depth look at the importance of the workings of our local government. Inspirational Speaker Nights are exclusive events for members of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. For information on joining, call 234-7150 or visit the Chamber website at www.saipanchamber.com/sec.asp?secID=60 or the Saipan Young Professionals Facebook page. ***(SYP)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On July 16, the Saipan Young Professionals Committee featured both current representative Edmund Villagomez and former representative Janet U. Maratita for their "Inspirational Speakers Night."

U.S. COAST GUARD/NATE LITTLEJOHN
Petty Officer 3rd Class Evan Thigpen, an aviation survival technician at Air Station Elizabeth City (ASEC), N.C., works the night shift in the rescue swimmer shop Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Evan was recently nominated by the ASEC command to represent the Coast Guard at the 2015 North Carolina United Service Organization's 10th Annual Salute to Freedom Gala for his life-saving actions in October and November in 2014.

Fins in the water

By PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS NATE LITTLEJOHN
U.S. COAST GUARD

"I took the injured woman first," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Evan Thigpen, an aviation survival technician at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina. "We were doing fast-basket recoveries to the helicopter, but I had drifted 40 yards from the vessel. After each hoist I had to swim this distance, if not further. I had the second survivor carry the small dog—again an easy hoist, but long swim back. The last survivor held a cat in its carrier while I towed him. Upon entering the water from the sailing vessel I immediately lost my left fin and couldn't recover it."

Coast Guard ASTs like Thigpen, more commonly known to the public as rescue swimmers, are responsible for some of the most dangerous components of search-and-rescue missions. This often puts them on the deck of vessels in distress or in the water with survivors in life-threatening situations. The Coast Guard equivalent to boots on the ground, ASTs are fins in the water.

Despite losing one fin, Thigpen saved three people, a dog, and a cat from the disabled sailboat off Cape Charles, Virginia, Oct. 22, 2014.

"Towing survivors is physically strenuous in calm seas with two fins," said Petty Officer 1st Class Roderick Ansley, one of Thigpen's supervisor's in the rescue swimmer shop at ASEC. "Accomplishing this with one fin, in large, breaking seas is nothing less than a miraculous feat of dedication, courage, and self discipline."

Thigpen is known among his leaders and peers for his superior performance under pressure during search and rescue missions, but to truly explore his reputation, one needs to dive a bit deeper than that.

"He is a true quiet professional," said Petty Officer 1st Class Claude Morrissey, Thigpen's shift supervisor at ASEC. "He's always willing to work late and take extra duty. He's always willing to support the air station in any way that he can. He is truly just a great all-around guy."

"I was first stationed in Seattle aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Midgett*, a 378-foot ship," explained Thigpen. "That's when I first met an aircrew, deployed to our ship from Kodiak, Alaska. I admired them for being humble and professional. I wanted to become an AST, because of what we stand for. We're all in the job to help people. We're a tight brotherhood that puts trust and faith in one another. It doesn't matter who gets a big SAR case or who is getting a lot of recognition. Every day is just another duty day and it's our job. I know that anyone in my shop, or any swimmer in the Coast Guard, would never give up."

On Nov. 27, 2014, 100 miles off Cape Hatteras North Carolina, Thigpen was called upon again when a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew responded to an injured man aboard a sailboat after midnight. Thigpen was lowered to the boat and swam the injured man in 12-foot swells to the helicopter cable where the survivor was hoisted, by sling, to safety.

Since then, he's performed three medevac cases, the most recent of which occurred 200 miles off the North Carolina coast on July 6.

Originally from Vero Beach, Florida, Thigpen grew up surfing, swimming, and watching the Coast Guard drive by in boats and fly by in helicopters and planes. "I joined the Coast Guard to help people in need and hopefully make an impact," said Thigpen. "I have always especially admired the Coast Guard's search and rescue mission."

Though rescue swimmers arguably receive more recognition than any other Coast Guard profession, Thigpen doesn't let that go to his head.

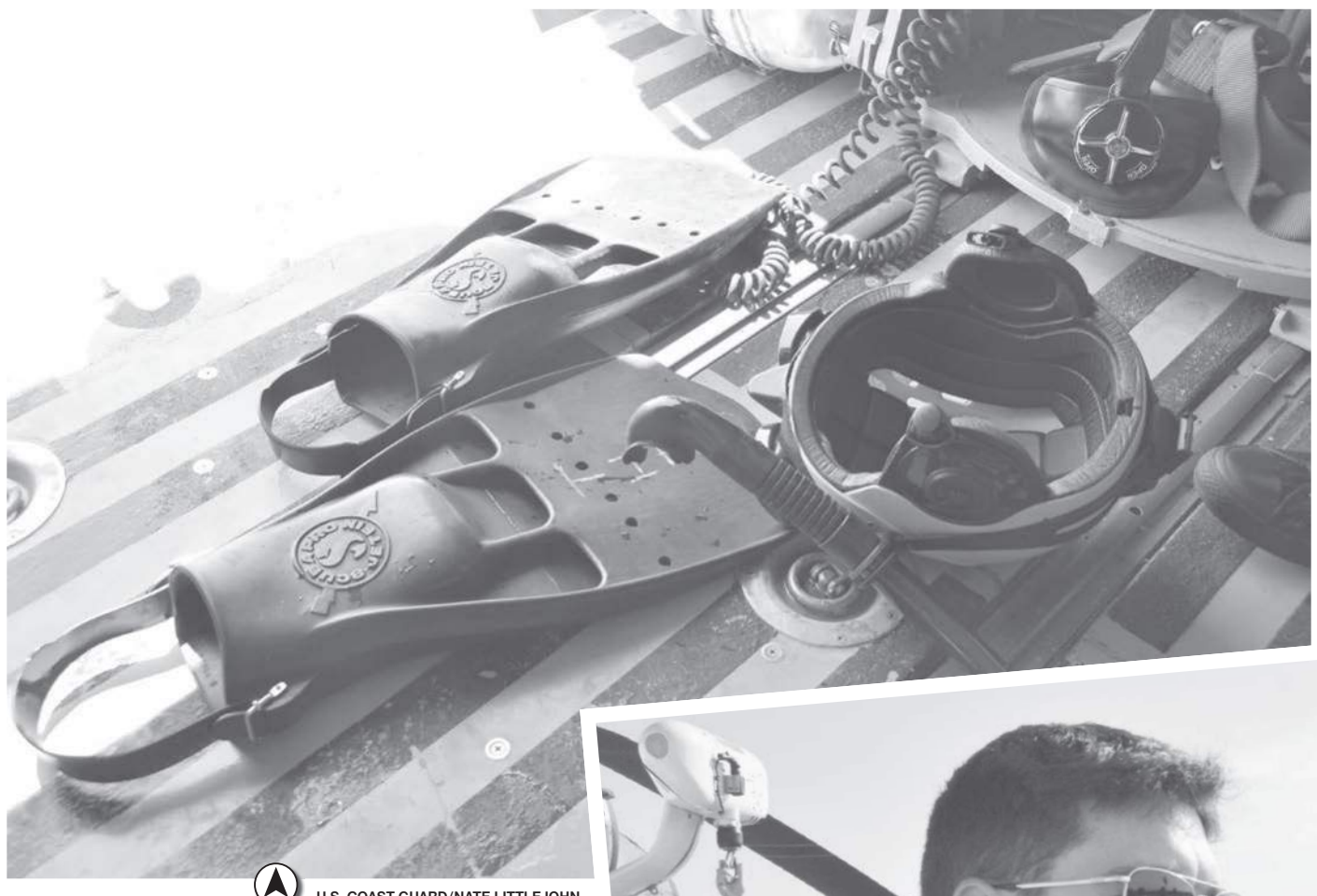
"I've only been in the rate two years and there is so much to learn in this job field," said Thigpen. "The best thing a new person can do is soak up knowledge. We have very experienced ASTs in our rate who have a lot to offer. I have yet to meet one who hasn't made an impact on me. My senior ASTs are mentors for how to make me a better AST. I'll learn more from them about real life situations than I can learn from any manual or course."

Chief Petty Officer Shannon Brugh, lead AST in ASEC's swimmer shop, said Thigpen was recently nominated by ASEC command to represent the Coast Guard at the 2015 North Carolina United Service Organization's 10th Annual Salute to Freedom Gala for his life-saving actions in October and November in 2014.

"Evan was chosen for his heroic actions on a pair of search and rescue cases," said Brugh. "Apart from that, he is the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back and bend over backward to accommodate personal requests. He always has a smile on his face and never anything negative to say. He's a very positive person who I can tell enjoys coming to work on a daily basis."

"Every time I mention how proud I am of something Evan has done at work, he tells me it's no big deal, it's his job," said Hunter James, Thigpen's girlfriend of about two years. "He's so selfless, driven, caring and determined, and does the best he can no matter what."

"As swimmers, we get a lot of attention," said Thigpen. "What people don't always think about is the entire Coast Guard behind us, doing their jobs so we can do ours. Without the pilots flying us out there, the flight mechanics lowering us from the helicopter, without the support personnel making sure we have fuel and gear, we couldn't do what we do. We're all part of the same Coast Guard team."



U.S. COAST GUARD/NATE LITTLEJOHN
An aviation survival technician's fins, mask, and snorkel lay on the deck inside a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter cabin in prior to launch from Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., Monday, June 29, 2015. The Coast Guard equivalent to boots on the ground, ASTs are fins in the water.

U.S. COAST GUARD/NATE LITTLEJOHN
Petty Officer 3rd Class Evan Thigpen, an aviation survival technician at Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., prepares for a search-and-rescue demonstration Monday, June 29, 2015, near Manteo.

Business

Govt: Fiat Chrysler must offer to buy back 500K pickups

DETROIT (AP)—Fiat Chrysler must offer to buy back from customers more than 500,000 Ram pickup trucks and other vehicles in the biggest such action in U.S. history as part of a costly deal with safety regulators to settle legal problems in about two dozen recalls.

The Italian-American automaker also faces a record civil fine of up to $105 million. In addition, owners of more than a million older Jeeps with vulnerable rear-mounted gas tanks will be able to trade them in or be paid by Chrysler to have the vehicles repaired.

The settlement is the latest sign that auto safety regulators are taking a more aggressive approach toward companies that fail to disclose defects or don't properly conduct a recall.

The Ram pickups, which are the company's top-selling vehicle, have defective steering parts that can cause drivers to lose control. Some previous repairs have been unsuccessful, so Fiat Chrysler agreed to the buyback, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Owners also have the option of getting them repaired, the agency said in documents released Sunday.

The older Jeeps have fuel tanks located behind the rear axle, with little to shield them in a rear crash. They can rupture and spill gasoline, causing a fire. At least 75 people have died in crash-related fires, although Fiat Chrysler maintains they are as safe as comparable vehicles from the same era.

Both the Jeep and Ram measures are part of a larger settlement between the government and the automaker over allegations of misconduct in 23 recalls covering more than 11 million vehicles. Besides the civil penalty, which was reported Saturday by The Associated Press, Fiat Chrysler agreed to an independent recall monitor and strict federal oversight. It's another step in NHTSA's effort to right itself after being criticized for lapses in some highly-publicized safety recalls.

AP

This July 13, 2011, file photo shows the Ram logo on a Ram pickup truck at a dealership in Hillsboro, Ore.

"Today's action holds Fiat Chrysler accountable for its past failures, pushes them to get unsafe vehicles repaired or off the roads and takes concrete steps to keep Americans safer going forward," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in the statement.

In a separate statement, Fiat Chrysler said it accepted the consequences of the agreement "with renewed resolve to improve our handling of recalls and re-establish the trust our customers place in us."

NHTSA has been involved in vehicle buybacks in the past, but never one of this size. A buyback usually happens when a problem is so serious that it can't be fixed and the vehicles need to be removed from service.

Under the agreement, Fiat Chrysler has to buy back the Ram trucks for the purchase price, minus depreciation.

It's unclear just how many Rams the automaker will have to repurchase, but the cash outlay could be substantial. According to Kelly Blue Book, a 2010 Dodge Ram 1500—one of the smaller, less-expensive trucks involved in the recalls—could fetch $20,000 in a dealer trade-in, assuming the truck has 60,000 miles on it and is in "good" condition. At that rate, if Chrysler had to buy back even a quarter of the trucks at issue, it could spend $2.5 billion.

Fiat Chrysler said more than 60 percent of the trucks already have been fixed, and the company is allowed to repair and resell the trucks it buys back.

The Jeep trade-ins could add to the tab, but they also could generate more new vehicle sales by getting customers into showrooms. Still, the total could strain the parent company, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV. The company posted a first-quarter net profit of $101 million and had more than $20 billion in cash and securities on March 31.

The consent order that Fiat Chrysler agreed to requires it to notify owners who are eligible for buybacks and other incentives.

Dealing with unusual co-workers, corporate recruiters

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics.

Q: One of our co-workers acts as though he could snap at any moment. "Barry" frequently talks to himself, sometimes asking questions and then answering them. He gives orders to others as though he's still in the military. When people talk about certain subjects, he becomes quite agitated.

Several of us shared our concerns about Barry with human resources, but so far nothing has been done. Since I don't feel safe around this person, I have considered looking for another job. Do you have any thoughts about this?

A: Predicting whether someone may become violent is difficult, even for clinically trained therapists. Some unusual people are dangerous, while others are simply odd. However, the fact that Barry makes you uneasy suggests that you should be careful around him.

When interacting with Barry, don't do anything to antagonize him. Remain pleasant and friendly, but avoid lengthy discussions, especially about topics which seem to upset him. If he begins to talk about conspiracies, weapons, or people who have done him wrong, those could be significant warning signs.

Since you and your colleagues continue to feel threatened, arrange another meeting with the HR manager or security department. They may wish to consult an outside expert who can help evaluate the situation. But if you truly fear for your safety, your inclination to leave may be correct. Lacking a crystal ball, you should do whatever seems necessary to protect yourself.

Q: Last year, I was contacted by a large international recruiting firm about a possible employment opportunity. Unfortunately, when I met with a recruiter from their local office, he said they couldn't work with me because my company was one of their largest clients.

The recruiter also mentioned that his manager and my boss were good friends, but he assured me that our conversation would remain confidential. However, when I turned in my resignation several months later, my boss informed me that his friend had told him I was looking.

Even though I recently changed jobs, this company continues to contact me. I have explained that I am very happy here, yet they keep calling me about other positions. I would like to tell them to buzz off, but they might be useful in the future. Why won't they leave me alone?

A: The reason for their persistence is simple. These folks are recruiters, and that's how recruiters work. When they have a position to fill, they keep trolling for candidates until they find qualified people to recommend. Despite your protests, they apparently hope the right opportunity might entice you to leave.

The next time someone calls, say that you appreciate their staying in touch, but you are not interested at the present time. Indicate that you will contact them if your circumstances change. When they call again, as they undoubtedly will, just repeat this script.

If you should ever decide to avail yourself of their services, consider requesting a signed confidentiality agreement. The previous lapse may simply represent the ethical shortcomings of a single manager, but it could also reflect a somewhat unprincipled corporate culture.

Minister: Greek bailout talks format still being negotiated

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece and rescue lenders are still working out the format of upcoming talks, the labor minister said Sunday, confirming a delay in the negotiations for a third international bailout.

Giorgos Katrougalos told private Skai television Sunday that pre-negotiation discussions were still ongoing.

"The way the negotiations will take place is still being discussed within the government," Katrougalos said.

Bailout negotiators from the European Commission, European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund had been due to start arriving in Athens last Friday to start talks for the new rescue package worth an expected 85 billion euros ($93 billion).

But late Saturday, a government official said talks at a "technical level" were now set to start on Tuesday. The official asked not to be named because the negotiations were ongoing.

Katrougalos said Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos and other Cabinet colleagues were likely to meet directly with the inspectors—a move that had been previously ruled out by the country's left-wing government.

"At the point we have reached, we are obliged to negotiate ... Faced with the prospect of financial collapse, we were forced to compromise," he said.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, elected six months ago on an anti-bailout platform, had promised to end austerity measures and stop direct talks in Athens between ministers and debt inspectors.

But the government was forced to reach a compromise after banks and the stock market were closed late last month, as deposits ran dangerously low.

Banks have since reopened but strict limits on money withdrawal and other transactions remain in effect.

Tsipras' government has already begun imposing new austerity measures demanded in return for the new bailout—but had relied on support from opposition parties after nearly a quarter of lawmakers in the ruling Syriza party opposed him.

The new agreement must be reached before Aug. 20 when Greece faces a debt repayment to the ECB worth more than 3 billion euros ($3.3 billion).

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Survey: US gasoline prices down a penny in the past 2 weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of gasoline has dropped a penny over the past two weeks to $2.82 a gallon. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that the current average sits 76 cents below the year-ago price. The cheapest price recorded in the continental United States was $2.33 a gallon in Birmingham, Alabama. The highest was $4.13 a gallon in Los Angeles. Lundberg says California saw huge wholesale price hikes during a brief supply shortage. She says supplies are flowing again and pump prices are poised to drop in the Golden State. The national average price of diesel was down 6 cents over the same period to $2.86 a gallon.

Lawsuit reveals extent of Ethiopian hacking amid Obama visit

WASHINGTON (AP)—As President Barack Obama faces pressure to discuss human rights in his first official visit to Ethiopia this weekend, a unique lawsuit back home is challenging whether the African country can spy on an American by turning his computer into a giant recording device. The federal case alleges Ethiopian government agents gobbled up months of a Maryland man's Skype calls and his family's Internet activities. But the man, born in Ethiopia and now a U.S. citizen, isn't wanted for a crime. Instead, he helps out a political opposition group outlawed in his home country. The alleged intrusion was investigated after the software left behind bread crumbs, underscoring a larger pattern: The use of commercial hacking software by foreign governments, sometimes with poor human-rights records, to electronically snoop on their adversaries.

State health insurance markets struggle with cost challenges

WASHINGTON (AP)—State-run health insurance markets that offer coverage under President Barack Obama's health law are struggling with high costs and disappointing enrollment. These challenges could lead more of them to turn over operations to the federal government or join forces with other states. Hawaii's marketplace, the latest cautionary tale, was awarded $205 million in federal startup grants. It has spent about $139 million and enrolled 8,200 customers for individual coverage in 2015. Unable to sustain itself, the state marketplace is turning over sign-ups to the federal HealthCare.gov for 2016. Twelve states and the District of Columbia fully control their markets. Experts estimate about half face financial difficulties. Federal taxpayers invested nearly $5 billion in startup grants to the states, expecting that state markets would become self-sustaining. Most of the federal money has been spent, and states have to face the consequences.

Nation

Gunman in theater shooting had history of seeking vengeance

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP)— The stranger clenched his fists and shook his head, recounting a time when he tried and failed to beat a cat to death with a steel rod.

His audience, two women lunching at a Lafayette bistro on a Saturday afternoon, sat across from him, shocked and silent. The man in a Hawaiian-print shirt had pulled a chair up to their table minutes earlier. He stroked their dogs and started to ramble: People spend too much money on their pets. There should be a cheaper way to euthanize an animal.

This stranger told them he once took in a stray cat and it got sick, so he bashed its head with the rod but failed to kill it.

"He was hurt that the cat lived," recalled Bonnie Barbier, who listened in horror to the bluster for 30 minutes. "It was this twisted sense that he was doing the right thing."

Days later, John Russell Houser's photograph flashed onto television screens across America as the man who opened fire in a Louisiana movie theater.

"My stomach dropped," Barbier said of the moment she saw his photo, stern and unsmiling. "That was the man from Saturday."

At the bistro, the man seemed unhinged and self-righteous, Barbier remembered. He had written letters to newspapers about conspiracies, he told her. But he was too smart for the world and had to dumb down his missives so the masses might understand them.

"I'm just sitting there thinking, `There's something wrong with this. He's out of his mind because normal people don't talk about this kind of thing,'" she said. "He was just so odd, and I felt really weird feelings with him. Something inside was like, `Just don't set him off. Just smile and nod.'"

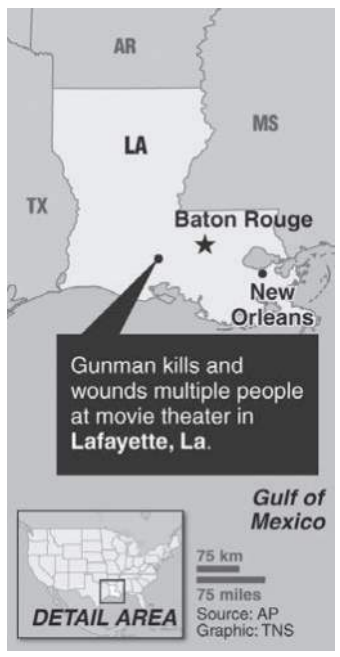
She and her friend found an excuse to slip away.

Houser, a mentally ill 59-year-old, terrified his own family and ranted in online forums about African-Americans, Jews and gays. He had lost his wife and his house and left behind a paper trail documenting a long history of seeking vengeance.

Five days after the chance meeting at the bistro, Houser walked into the theater, bought a ticket to the 7 p.m. showing of "Trainwreck" and picked a seat two rows from the back. Twenty minutes into the movie, he stood up in the darkness and, according to those who knew him, let loose a lifetime's reserve of rage.

Five hundred miles away in Houser's hometown of Columbus, Georgia, some former neighbors say his life was a decades-long collision course with disaster.

AP
Carton Thornhill, left, and Stephanie Guidroz, right, both of Columbia, Miss., and with Stars of Hope, hang stars on the Grand 16 theater sign for a memorial near the movie theater to remember and honor the victims of a deadly shooting at the theater, Sunday, July 26, 2015, in Lafayette, La.



"He's been known as a lunatic and a fool around this neck of the woods for years," said Patrick Williams, an antiques dealer who once filed a police report alleging Houser sold him a stolen iron fence at a flea market. "He was a highly intelligent guy but mean as a snake and dangerous. I wasn't a bit surprised when I saw his picture on TV. And no one else that knew him was surprised either."

Houser, who went by Rusty, was known as odd and eccentric in the cluster of towns near the state line between Georgia and Alabama where he lived nearly all his life.

Neighbors said he filled his in-ground pool with hundreds of koi. He flew a Confederate flag, passed doomsday fliers around his neighborhood, pounded out angry online missives about corruption and injustice and spouted admiration for Adolf Hitler.

He fit the familiar mold of mass shooters, said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University, author and prominent expert on massacres. Houser was paranoid, blamed everyone but himself, alienated his family and survived in a world of self-imposed isolation.

"If you gave me a list of names, I would have picked his out as the one that done it," said Vince Woodward, who was then active in local Republican politics.

But many towns have a resident crackpot. And hindsight is an inaccurate lens, Fox said.

"There's a very large haystack of people who have these characteristics, but very few needles that will indeed carry out a rampage," he said. "They're not red flags. They're yellow. The only time they turn red is after blood is spilled on them."

Mass shooters often sound a lot like Houser, he said. But thousands of men who sound a lot like Houser don't become mass shooters. Fox compared the relationship to another sort of tragedy: most planes that crash do so in bad weather. But most planes withstand storms without plunging from the sky.

By 1989, Houser imagined himself as a crusader for righteousness.

Then 34, he tried to pay a man $100 to burn down the office of a lawyer who represented a pornographic movie theater to "save the world, bring law and order," The Advocate newspaper reported, citing a court transcript.

But his intended arsonist turned out to be a police informant, and Houser was hauled into court.

The judge questioned whether "the presence of a delusional compulsion overmastered his will to resist committing the alleged act," according to court records. He ordered that Houser be evaluated at the psychiatric unit at a Columbus hospital.

The case was later dropped. But Houser's sanity would remain in question for more than two decades.

He soon became a regular guest on a local television show, where he held forth about the evils of abortion and women in the workplace. He was known as the black sheep of a well-regarded family. His father was the town's longtime tax commissioner.

In 1996, Houser too ran for public office. But he was caught stealing his competitor's yard signs and backed out of the race. Woodward said Houser was something of a "fringe member" of the party, known for spouting wild accusations.

He was often nice, then his mood would suddenly darken.

"He wasn't just depressed," Woodward said. "He was angry depressed."

Houser earned a degree in accounting, then went to law school. But he never took the bar exam and for a while ran a tavern instead.

In 2001, the city of LaGrange, Georgia, revoked Houser's liquor license, citing a series of convictions for selling beer to minors.

He railed to the LaGrange Daily News that he'd been set up, that the police lied. He challenged city officials to take lie detector tests to prove their case, the newspaper reported at the time. But the city declined.

So Houser unfurled a banner as big as a bedsheet on the side of his downtown tavern, the newspaper reported. It displayed a swastika with the phrase "Welcome to LaGrange."

He said at the time he was against Nazi philosophy and described the flag as an effort to mock a government willing to trample its citizens' rights. But Houser changed his mind a few years later. He wrote in online message boards that "Hitler is loved for the results of his pragmatism" and "decent people can retake the entire world, as Hitler proved."

"He was a little odd," said Jeff Hardin, the former mayor of Phenix City, just across the Chattahoochee River from Columbus. "He was pretty even keeled until you disagreed with him or made him mad. Then he became your sworn enemy."

In 2005, he caught the attention of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups and lone-wolf extremists, when he registered for former KKK leader David Duke's European-American Unity and Rights Organization conference in New Orleans.

In April 2008, his 23-year-old daughter was planning to marry her fiance the following month. But Houser believed they were too young. He made "ominous as well as disturbing statements," his family wrote in seeking a court order to keep him away. His wife, Kellie Maddox Houser, wrote that she was so worried about his unraveling mental state, she removed all his guns from the house.

He stormed into his daughter's office, then to another relative's house, where police were called and intervened. Houser's wife told officers he had a history of depression and bipolar disorder.

"She said he sometimes forgets to take his medication and sometimes he forgets to eat, which affected his behavior as well," an officer wrote in the report. A judge agreed he should be involuntarily committed to a mental hospital.

Despite his history, Houser was able to walk into an Alabama pawnshop and buy a Hi-Point .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun in February 2014, just as his life began its final downward spiral.

His wife of 30 years filed for divorce in March and wrote they had been separated since 2012. Their home had gone into foreclosure when they split, and she had not been able to find him.

He called her, she wrote in a court filing.

"He told me if I wanted to play games with him, I'd better watch out because he always wins."

Norman Bone bought the house at a 2014 foreclosure auction. He asked Houser, a man he knew from church, how long it would take him to leave. Houser became angry and slammed the door, Bone said.

He poured concrete down the toilets and drains and threw paint and feces around the house, Bone said.

The day Houser was evicted, Bone walked into the house to find the gas fireplace logs were removed and the gas starter tube was twisted out and ignited.

"He was hoping the house would catch on fire. That's what the investigators told me," Bone said.

"He was trying to blow the house up," his wife, Pat, chimed in.

Then Houser disappeared.

His estranged mother gave him $5,000 to get back on his feet.

She lived in a retirement home and had told his wife months earlier that she hadn't seen him in years, according to court records. Security at her home had forbidden her son from entering.

In the first days of July, he rented a room at the Motel 6 in Lafayette. Police are now trying to piece together what brought him to this college town and what he did once he arrived.

Johnny Ha, the owner of KD Seafood, said Houser came into his store at least twice and begged for money. Ha refused and offered him food instead. Houser declined.

"He just left. He did not get angry or get a bad attitude," Ha said.

People saw him rambling around town, said Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft.

Houser drank. He talked to people about opening a two-minute oil-change service. He went to a food bank in Lake Charles, an hour's drive east. And he went to the Grand 16 movie theater several times, Craft said.

"Maybe he was testing. Maybe he was checking. Maybe he was determining, you know, is there anything that could be a soft target for him."

He settled into the back of the theater on July 18, alongside 25 people there for the movie. Then he stood silently and fired 20 times.

He killed two young women and wounded nine people.

He had apparently planned to escape. Police searched his motel room and found wigs and glasses and other disguises, and he had swapped out the license plate on his blue 1995 Lincoln Continental.

But police closed in, thwarting his route to safety.

So he put his gun to his head and pulled the trigger.

Asia

AP tracks missing slave fishing boats to Papua New Guinea

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—From space, the fishing boats are just little white specks floating in a vast stretch of blue water off Papua New Guinea. But zoom in and there's the critical evidence: Two trawlers loading slave-caught seafood onto a massive refrigerated cargo ship.

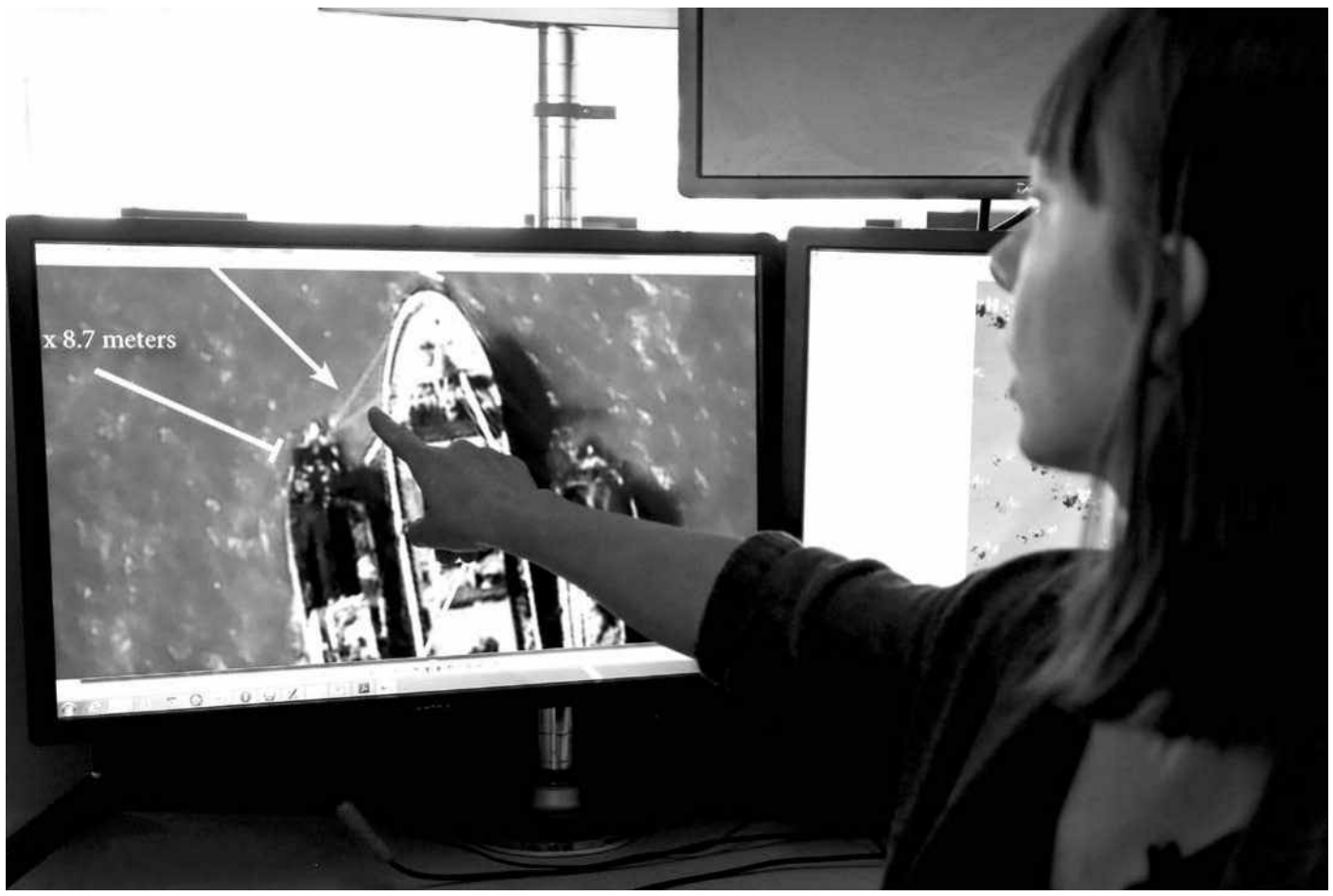
The trawlers fled a slave island in Indonesia with captives of a brutal Southeast Asian trafficking ring whose catch reaches the United States. Hundreds of men were freed after they were discovered there earlier this year, but 34 boats loaded with workers left for new fishing grounds before help arrived—they remain missing.

After a four-month investigation, The Associated Press has found that at least some of them ended up in a narrow, dangerous strait nearly 1,000 miles away. The proof comes from accounts from recently returned slaves, satellite beacon tracking, government records, interviews with business insiders and fishing licenses. The location is also confirmed in images from space taken by one of the world's highest resolution satellite cameras, upon the AP's request.

The skippers have changed their ships' names and flags to evade authorities, but hiding is easy in the world's broad oceans. Traffickers operate with impunity across boundaries as fluid as the waters. Laws are few and hardly enforced. And depleted fish stocks have pushed boats farther out into seas that are seldom even glimpsed, let alone governed.

This lack of regulation means that even with the men located, bringing them to safety may prove elusive.

Officials from Papua New Guinea working with the International Organization for Migration said they were not aware of human trafficking cases in the area but are investigating. Numerous other agencies—including Interpol, the United Nations and the U.S. State and Defense departments—told the AP they don't have the authority to get involved.



AP

In this July 17, 2015, photo, DigitalGlobe imagery analyst Micah Farfour, shows a high-resolution satellite photograph taken of trawlers in Papua New Guinea loading slave-caught seafood onto Silver Sea 2, a refrigerated cargo ship belonging to the Thai-owned Silver Sea Fishery Co., at DigitalGlobe's headquarters in Westminster, Colo.

A handful of former slaves who recently made it home to Myanmar said hundreds of men remain unaccounted for.

"Papua New Guinea can be a lawless place," said Lin Lin, one of the returnees, describing fishing in the poor island nation. "Fishermen could die anytime, but the captains would not care. If they die, they will just be thrown away."

He said he and his crewmembers still don't know why they were sent home last month, when their trawler returned to the same port in Thailand from which they were originally trafficked.

As the appetite for cheap fish worldwide grows, so does the demand for men who are paid little or nothing to catch it. Thailand's $7 billion annual seafood export industry is built on the backs of poor people from its own country and migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who are sold, kidnapped and tricked onto trawlers.

In November, the AP found hundreds of such forced laborers on the remote island village of Benjina in eastern Indonesia—some in a cage, others on boats and more than 60 buried in a graveyard. To date, the reporting has prompted the rescue and repatriation of more than 800 men, many of whom said they were abused or witnessed others being beaten, or in some cases even killed.

Reporters followed the slave-caught fish back to Thailand and linked it to the supply chains of major U.S. food sellers, such as Wal-Mart, Sysco and Kroger, and American pet food companies, including Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. The businesses have all said they strongly condemn labor abuse and vowed to take steps to prevent it.

In April, a week after the AP story was published, the Indonesian government launched a criminal inquiry. It was already clamping down on illegal fishing nationwide with a moratorium on all foreign boats. Officials rescued hundreds on the spot but they discovered that a third of the company's 90 trawlers had already left—each with 15 to 20 migrants on board. The Indonesian government wants to bring the boats back for prosecution.

"They have to be responsible for what's happened," said Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti.

The disappearing act can start with a bucket of paint.

Kaung Htet Wai, 25, said his crewmates nailed a new name and number over the old one—Antasena 331—and hoisted a different country's flag: the red, black and yellow of Papua New Guinea. Wai said his trawler did not dock for several months, and loaded many types of seafood, including mackerel, shrimp and shark, onto refrigerated cargo ships. Captains also repainted and renumbered other boats, and some kept flags from as many as four different countries in their hulls, according to former slaves and investigators.

The flag change protects rogue boats because typically the flagged states, not the host country, set their rules, said Mark Lagon, president of the Freedom House in Washington D.C. and former U.S. ambassador at large to combat human trafficking. Laws in general are weaker for fishing trawlers than other vessels, as is overall monitoring, he noted, creating a "black hole of governance."

As the boats hid, Indonesian investigators discovered that the company listed as their operator, Pusaka Benjina Resources, was really a venture between seafood industry tycoons and businessmen from Thailand and Indonesia.

Financial records going back seven years reveal Pusaka Benjina's lucrative business with a shipping company, Silver Sea Fishery Co. The trawlers crewed by slaves brought fish to Benjina, where it was loaded onto Silver Sea cargo ships heading for Thailand.

In a typical month, Silver Sea was invoiced about $500,000 for loads of seafood. One month the firm was billed $1.6 million, with a third of that charged to the Silver Sea 2—the very same transport ship identified earlier this month in the satellite photo off Papua New Guinea.

Pusaka Benjina manager Hermanwir Martino, among seven people arrested on human trafficking charges, has said his company did nothing wrong. Silver Sea Fishery did not answer calls.

Photographs from the sky helped the AP actually catch the Silver Sea 2 in the act of doing business with the trawlers.

Over the past few months, satellite beacons show, Silver Sea cargo ships had been shuttling regularly between Thailand and Papua New Guinea. They slowed to a crawl or halted completely, apparently as they were being loaded with fish, in a crooked strait known as the dogleg.

Analysts at SkyTruth, a West Virginia remote sensing and digital mapping firm, identified the Silver Sea 2 by its signals. However, they warned that getting photographic evidence of it collecting fish from one of the trawlers that fled Benjina would be next to impossible.

Nonetheless, two weeks ago, DigitalGlobe, a Colorado-based commercial vendor of space imagery, maneuvered a satellite at the request of the AP toward coordinates of the Silver Sea 2, which had dropped anchor off Papua New Guinea. The cargo reefer struck experts as suspicious because it had turned off its locator beacon for almost two days, possibly while picking up seafood.

The satellite whizzed over Papua New Guinea at 17,000 mph, 380 miles up. Within a day, DigitalGlobe analysts spotted a high-resolution shot of a ship matching the Silver Sea 2 right down to the docking ropes and open cargo holds, with boats identical to those from Benjina nestled alongside, apparently offloading fish.

CEO Jeff Tarr said this was the first time the technology had been used to capture human trafficking live: "You can't hide from space."

ASIAN BRIEFS

7 killed as rebels attack bus, police station in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian army commandos and police were in a gunfight Monday with militants who attacked a bus station and stormed into police barracks in a northern town bordering Pakistan, with at least seven people dead. Harchanran Singh Bains, a Punjab state government spokesman, said two of the dead were militants. It was not immediately known if all of the other five were police. Senior police officer Dinkar Gupta said the attackers, believed to have come from the Indian portion of Kashmir, hijacked a car and then fired at a bus station and entered a nearby police station near Gurdaspur, a border town in Punjab state. Army and police reinforcements poured into the area and were exchanging gunfire with the rebels holed up in the barracks, he said.

Man killed by shark while diving off Australian coast

HOBART, Australia (AP)—A woman watched her father being mauled to death by a large shark on Saturday while the pair were diving off the Australian island state of Tasmania, police said. The adult woman had returned to their boat with scallops that the pair had collected then became concerned that her father, in his late 40s, had not surfaced after her, Inspector David Wiss told reporters in the state capital of Hobart. "His daughter became worried and went down and checked on her father," Wiss said. "She saw a very large shark. She saw her father being attacked by the shark."

Afghan official: 21 dead, 10 wounded in wedding gunfight

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A shootout at a wedding party in northern Afghanistan has left 21 people dead and another 10 wounded, an official said Monday. Jaweed Basharat, spokesman for the governor of Baghlan province, said a gunfight broke out between two groups attending the wedding in Andarab district late Sunday. Most of the dead were wedding guests aged 14 to 60 years old, he said. Baghlan and other provinces of the north have been plagued by insurgent attacks since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 that toppled the Taliban. However, the war is often used as a cover for criminal activity and personal feuds. The police chief of Andarab, Col. Gulistan Qasani, said hostility between the two groups involved in the gunfight had been simmering for many years.

Strong quake hits off Indonesia, but no tsunami warning

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake hit off of Indonesia's main island of Java on Sunday afternoon, causing residents to pour into the streets, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, and no tsunami warning was issued. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.0 undersea quake was centered 93 kilometers (58 miles) south of the East Java province town of Krajan Tambakrejo, at a depth of 59 kilometers (37 miles). Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said on its website that the quake had no potential to trigger a tsunami.

World

Obama: Kenya at 'crossroads' between peril and promise

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Declaring Kenya at a "crossroads" between promise and peril, President Barack Obama on Sunday pressed the nation of his father's birth to root out corruption, treat women and minorities as equal citizens, and take responsibility for its future.

Closing his historic visit with an address to the Kenyan people, Obama traced the arc of the country's evolution from colonialism to independence, as well as his own family's history here. Today, Obama said, young Kenyans are no longer constrained by the limited options of his grandfather, a cook for the country's former British rulers, or his father, who left to seek an education in America.

"Because of Kenya's progress—because of your potential—you can build your future right here, right now," Obama told the crowd of 4,500 packed into a sports arena in the capital of Nairobi. But he bluntly warned that Kenya must make "tough choices" to bolster its fragile democracy and fast-growing economy.

Obama's visit here, his first as president, captivated a country that views him as a local son. Thick crowds lined the roadways to watch the presidential motorcade speed through the city Sunday, some climbing on rooftops to get a better view.

AP

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, left, looks on as President Barack Obama is given a bouquet of flowers as he arrives at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, on Sunday, July 26, 2015, in Addis Ababa.

The audience inside the arena chanted his name as he finished his remarks.

The president left Kenya Sunday afternoon, pausing longer than normal atop the stairs to Air Force One to wave to the crowd, a huge grin on his face. He arrived two hours later in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, where he met with diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in the evening.

Obama has written emotionally about his first visit to Kenya as a young man nearly 30 years ago, and he recounted many of those same memories in his remarks Sunday. The battered Volkswagen his sister drove. Meeting his brothers for the first time. The airport employee who recognized his last name.

"That was the first time that my name meant something," he said.

The president barely knew his father, who died in 1982 after leaving the U.S. to return to Kenya. However, Obama has numerous family members in the country, including his half-sister Auma Obama, who introduced her brother Sunday.

"He's one of us," she said. "But we're happy to share him with the world."

The bulk of Obama's address was a candid commentary on the East African nation's future. He spent considerable time warning about the risks of government corruption, calling it an "anchor" that could weigh down the country's promising future.

Syria's embattled president admits manpower shortage

BEIRUT (AP)—In his first public address in a year, embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad vowed Sunday to win his country's long-running civil war while acknowledging his troops had lost territory to rebel forces and were running short on manpower.

Assad's speech, while confident, came in the fifth year of a conflict pitting his forces against rebels, Islamist insurgents and the extremist Islamic State group. Turkey, which has long backed the rebels, has begun striking the IS group and Kurdish fighters battling the extremists, adding a new layer of complexity to a brutal war with no end in sight.

Assad's televised speech Sunday morning, given to local dignitaries in the Syrian capital, Damascus, was his first public address since he was sworn in for a third, seven-year term in July last year. Assad has given interviews to several Arab and international media outlets in the meantime.

Assad acknowledged that his generals have had to move forces from one front to another in order to protect areas that are militarily, politically or economically more important. He added that the loss of some areas to insurgents has led to "frustration" among Syrians.

Syrian forces have suffered several setbacks since March, including the loss of the northwestern city of Idlib, the capital of a province that borders Turkey. In May, the government lost the historic central town of Palmyra to IS extremists, who also captured parts of the northeastern city of Hassakeh.

Those losses could be partially offset by greater support from the government's key ally, Iran, now that Tehran has agreed to a nuclear deal with world powers that would see international sanctions lifted.

"We are not collapsing. We are steadfast and will achieve victory," said Assad, who was interrupted several times by applause. "Defeat does not exist in the dictionary of the Syrian Arab army."

Assad tried to justify the loss of some areas, including Idlib. Assad-allied forces, including fighters from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and Iranian advisers, control a little less than half of Syria's 185,000 square kilometers (71,400 square miles).

5-day humanitarian cease-fire starts in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Saudi-led coalition airstrikes came to a halt in Yemen early Monday after a five-day humanitarian truce went into effect, witnesses and security officials said.

However, ground fighting broke out almost immediately in the restive city of Taiz following random shelling by Shiite Houthi rebels in three neighborhoods, they said.

Security officials said ground fighting has also erupted in Marib province and in the area surrounding the strategic al-Anad military base in Lahj province.

Fighting in the southern port city of Aden has quieted, residents said, with an occasional volley of gunfire heard in the area immediately after the ceasefire took effect.

The Saudi-led and U.S.-backed coalition of mainly Gulf Arab countries has been waging an air campaign since March against the Iran-supported rebels, who control most of northern Yemen and the capital, Sanaa.

The pause declared by the Saudi-led coalition began at 11:59 p.m. (2059 GMT, 4:59 p.m. EDT) Sunday. It is intended to help allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to ease the suffering of civilians in the Arab world's poorest country.

The coalition made the unexpected announcement about the humanitarian pause on Saturday. The statement, carried on Saudi state media, said the coalition will cease military operations, but that it will respond should Houthi rebels or their allies conduct any military actions or movements.

The rebels, known as Houthis, have expressed doubt over the truce. One Houthi official said it will likely mark "the beginning of a new war."

Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi, the head of the Houthi's Revolutionary Council, said Sunday that the group had not received official notification of the truce from the United Nations.

Two previous humanitarian truces in Yemen did not hold.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the coalition's announcement of the cease-fire and urged the Houthis and other parties to suspend military operations and "maintain the humanitarian pause for the sake of all the Yemeni people," Ban's spokesman said. Ban also urged all sides "to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all parts of Yemen."

Obama's visit raises Ethiopia's stature amid rights concerns

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Like the visit to Kenya, President Barack Obama's trip Sunday to Ethiopia represents the first time a sitting U.S. president has been to this East African country and according to its government, it is a sign of the nation's growing stature.

Grave concerns remain, however, over political freedoms in this nation of more than 90 million—Africa's second largest—and opposition figures fear that the visit, coming on the heels of an improbable 100 percent ruling party win in elections, will give international legitimacy to a repressive government.

With its history of pan-African activism, Ethiopia is also the home of the African Union and on Tuesday Obama will be addressing the whole continent from the organization's new headquarters in Addis Ababa.

After centuries of ties—the first bilateral trade agreement was signed in 1903—only now is a U.S. president visiting, noted Communication Minister Redwan Hussein.

"The choice by a sitting U.S. President to visit us was made because we have become more visible and important enough to be visited," he told The Associated Press. "Being visited by the first sitting American president will enhance the confidence and aspirations of Ethiopians."

Obama is set to holds talks with his counterpart Mulatu Teshome as well as Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and is expected to discuss the conflict in southern Sudan, confronting the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab in Somalia and economic development.

Administration officials have also promised frank discussions over the lack of press freedom and political openness in Ethiopia.

In May, the ruling party took all the seats in legislative elections described by the U.S. and the European Union as unfair.

Woretaw Wassie, a leader of the opposition Blue Party said members of his party were arrested ahead of Obama's visit on suspicion they would make a fuss.

"Visiting a country which is totally contrary to the values of the West is very controversial," he said. "But in any case, the U.S. believes that engaging can make a difference so maybe it will be a good opportunity to put some pressure."

Another touchy subject would be gay rights which Obama championed on Saturday in Kenya, calling for equal treatment for all under the law.

Overdrive

Hyundai Tucson grows up

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TNS

The 2016 Hyundai Tucson sees a slight style change from earlier generations, and now shares more design with its larger siblings.

If you were asked to pick a distinguishing feature of the 2015 Hyundai Tucson, you might choose its reliability. After all, Hyundai surprised the industry with the vehicle by topping the recent J.D. Power study of initial quality.

Or, you might mention the vehicle's good value relative to its peers. But the second-generation crossover, launched in 2009, had a generically Asian appearance, which while pleasing, didn't endow the Tucson with much of an image or reflect its true quality.

That changes with the third-generation Tucson, the 2016, which wears the crisp, conservative clothes of its larger siblings, the Santa Fe Sport and Santa Fe. All three now share similar design cues, with bold grilles up front, bookended by projector-beam headlamps or optional LEDs. The sculpted side panels feature smaller glass openings and crisp lines that surge up as they sweep back across the body. They're offset by large wheel openings. In the rear, LED tail lamps and chrome tipped exhaust tips complete the look.

The Tucson's new presence is helped by its more generous dimensions. The 2016 model is 3 inches longer, 1.1 inches wider and rides atop a 1.2-inch longer wheelbase. This pays dividends inside, with greater passenger space and more cargo room. In fact, there's a generous 31 cubic feet of cargo room, an increase of more than 5 cubic feet compared to the 2015 model. A dual-level rear cargo floor is a thoughtful touch.

Farther forward in the cabin, you'll find an interior design influenced by Eero Saarinen. Fans of the architect would be hard-pressed to pick up on the influence, but as a result of it, you will appreciate the vehicle's feeling of spaciousness, especially if the panoramic roof is ordered. But it's the remarkably upgraded craftsmanship that will impress you the most. Touch points such as the steering wheel and shifter are covered in leather, while the center console is nicely padded. All seats can be heated, while front seats can be cooled as well.

Infotainment is handled through an 8-inch touchscreen; base models get a 5-inch screen. Navigation, Pandora and Apple Siri Eyes Free are optional.

The seats were very comfortable, and legroom was good in both rows. Surprisingly, the rear seats were high and comfortable, a nice touch considering many automakers automatically make them lower, assuming children are the only ones who sit in second row. Bravo.

And accessing that interior is easier as well, especially in the rear, thanks to an optional smart lift gate. Unlike the Ford Escape's lift gate, the Tucson's doesn't require you to wave your foot under a sensor. Instead, just stand behind the vehicle, fob in pocket or purse; the lift gate opens automatically.

The new wardrobe cloaks an equally new platform, in this case, the same one that underpins the new Sonata. Meanwhile, the Santa Fe Sport sits atop the old Sonata platform.

So while the base Tucson shares its engine with the Sonata—in this case, a 164-horsepower, 2-liter, four-cylinder engine matched to a six-speed automatic transmission—Eco, Sport and Limited models get a new, 1.6-liter, turbocharged, direct-injected four-cylinder with 175 horsepower and 195 pound-feet of torque and a new Hyundai-built seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. The two engines differ not just in power delivery but also at the pump. The larger engine, not surprisingly, delivers lower fuel economy with Environmental Protection Agency ratings of 23 mpg city and 31 mpg highway. By comparison, the smaller engine returns 26 mpg city and 33 highway.

The new Tucson's smaller engine was sufficiently powerful to handle what was asked of it, with plenty of juice on tap for a quick burst of acceleration or that extra oomph needed for passing. The new dual-clutch transmission is smooth and responsive, though at times it felt more like a continuously variable transmission than a dual-clutch. Paddle shifters are not offered, but should be, especially in the Sport model.

Steering is quick and nicely weighted but has the artificial feel typical of modern electric power steering systems. The all-wheel-drive system uses torque vectoring to enhance handling as well as to ensure good traction. It's worth opting for as the system eliminates torque steer present in the front-wheel-drive model. Body lean is well-controlled in corners, and bump absorption is firm yet forgiving. The ride is also remarkably quiet, enhancing the car's interior ambience, which is dramatically improved over the previous Tucson.

Thoughtfully, many advanced safety features are offered as options, including blind spot monitor, lane departure warning, lane change assist, rear cross traffic alert and automatic emergency braking.

It all adds up to a sophisticated package in a small SUV that's big on value.

The 2016 Hyundai Tucson SE starts at $22,700, but can easily go into the low 30s fully loaded.

Given the vehicle's newfound sophistication, that seems like a good value indeed.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Engine: Turbocharged double-overhead-cam 1.6-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower/torque: 175/195
- Wheelbase: 105.1 inches
- Length: 176.2 inches
- Ground clearance: 6.4 inches
- Roof rail load capacity: 220 pounds
- Cargo volume: 31-61.9 cubic feet
- Passenger volume: 105.2 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 3,325-3,710 pounds
- EPA rating (city/highway): 26/33
- NHTSA rating: Not available
- Base prices: $22,700-$31,300

MOTORING Q&A

Save money by rebuilding, not replacing control module

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a 2003 Chevrolet S-10 with 70,000 miles. A month ago the anti-lock braking system and brake warning lights came on. The next time I started the truck they were not on. This has been going on randomly since. The brakes were checked and continue to function perfectly. There has been no loss of brake fluid and the parking brake works fine. After extensive research online I have come to believe that it is an electronic brake control module problem. I also found a number of companies that rebuild these modules for under $100. You take the module off your car, send it in, they rebuild it and send it back. Being that you have several GM cars and trucks, have you run into this problem? Would you recommend this way of fixing it?

A: Yes, I would. But first, have a scan tool read the specific diagnostic trouble codes stored in the powertrain control module and brake control module. This should identify the causes for the intermittent ABS and brake warning lights. If the codes indicate a problem with the electronic brake control module, having the unit professionally rebuilt for $100 rather than replacing it for well over $1,000 makes good sense to me.

Since both warning lights are illuminated, the dynamic rear proportioning control system, part of the EBCM, may be the issue. An ABS fault with the dynamic rear proportioning will trigger both warning lights.

Q: I have a problem with my 2014 Lexus RX 350. When accelerating from a stop sign and making a turn into traffic, I press the accelerator to move quickly into traffic, but as I turn, the vehicle seems to stall and I feel like a sitting duck. Without me doing anything, the vehicle will downshift and finally accelerate. I mentioned the problem when I had the 5,000-mile check at the dealer but got no response. It seems to happen in the 1,500 rpm to 2,000 rpm range. If I really punch it, I can break traction and almost spin out on the turn. I often have to enter traffic on arterial streets and this is very frustrating.

A: And scary, I'll bet! I have been unable to find any specific technical info on this problem, but my automotive instincts point me toward the traction and stability control systems. Your vehicle is equipped with sophisticated driver aids that can identify the start of a traction, stability, braking or yaw issue and implement corrective measures to help you avoid a possible loss of control.

I can't help but wonder if your aggressive application of throttle while turning may trigger a response from these systems, reducing power until the systems no longer sense the problem. I'd ask the dealer to interrogate the control modules for these systems and check with the manufacturer to see if there are any software updates to address this.

Again, this is at best an educated guess, but that's where I'd start.

Q: The car is a 2000 Volvo S40 with 113,000 miles. At 89,000 miles, the key wouldn't come out of the ignition switch. I had the ignition switch and lock cylinder replaced for $400. Now it's doing it again. Strange thing is this happens in hot weather. After the car sits for a couple of hours I can turn the ignition all the way back and extract the key. Spending $400 again is not something I want to do. Thoughts?

A: My online research found that the ignition lock cylinder on these cars can be problematic. But due to the heat-related and intermittent nature of your problem, the push-button lock switch on the shift lever may be sticking and not fully releasing when you engage park. Try pushing the lever farther forward, spraying an aerosol lube in the button slot or even trying to manually pull the button out. If this allows you to remove the key, you've found an inexpensive solution.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Bobbi Kristina Brown, daughter of Whitney Houston, has died

DULUTH, Ga. (AP) — The brief, chaotic life of Bobbi Kristina Brown was never really her own.

Born and raised in the shadow of fame and litigation, shattered by the loss of her mother, Whitney Houston, Bobbi Kristina was overwhelmed by the achievements and demons of others before she could begin to figure out who she was.

Her demise was the most awful inheritance of all.

Bobbi Kristina died on Sunday at Peachtree Christian Hospice in Duluth, Georgia, about six months after she was found face-down and unresponsive in a bathtub in the suburban Atlanta townhome she shared with Nick Gordon, the man she called her husband. She was 22-years-old.

"Bobbi Kristina Brown passed away July, 26 2015, surrounded by her family. She is finally at peace in the arms of God. We want to again thank everyone for their tremendous amount of love and support during these last few months," Kristen Foster, a representative for the Houston family said Sunday.

The Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed Bobbi Kristina's death Sunday night and will issue a news release on Monday.

Police said she was found Jan. 31. A police report described it as a "drowning."

Bobbi Kristina was the only child between Houston and Brown.

She was hospitalized for months in Atlanta—eventually being placed in hospice care—after being found in a manner grimly similar to the way her megastar mother died three years earlier. Gordon said at the time it seemed Bobbi Kristina wasn't breathing and lacked a pulse before help arrived.

Brown—the sole heir of her mother's estate—did have dreams.

She identified herself on Twitter as "Daughter of Queen WH," ''Entertainer/Actress" with William Morris & Co., and "LAST of a dying breed." She told Oprah Winfrey shortly after her mother's death in 2012 that she wanted to carry on her mother's legacy by singing, acting and dancing. But her career never took off. Actor and producer Tyler Perry said she had a future as an actress after her debut on his TV show "For Better or Worse" in 2012, but she only appeared in one episode. Aside from two ill-fated reality TV shows and the occasional paparazzi video, her image mostly showed up in the "selfies" she posted online.

AP
In this Feb. 12, 2011, file photo, singer Whitney Houston, left, and daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown arrive at an event in Beverly Hills, Calif.

She attended award shows and appeared on red carpets with her mother and father. She performed a duet with her mother in 2009, singing "My Love Is Your Love" in New York's Central Park. She became social media sensation, sending more than 11,000 tweets and attracting 164,000 followers.

As the news of her death spread across social media, several celebrities tweeted their condolences.

Grammy-winning performer Missy Elliot tweeted, "My heart is truly heavy. May u rest in peace with your mommy #BobbiKristina sending prayers 2 the Brown/Houston family."

"Empire" star Taraji P. Henson tweeted, "Rest in heaven."

"RIP #BobbiKristina My deepest sympathies 2 your father #BobbyBrown n your GrandMa #CissyHouston We will miss ya 4sho darling ;) Actress Vivica A. Fox said on Twitter.

And Winfrey tweeted, "Peace at Last!"

Whitney Houston, known as "America's Sweetheart," was an impossible act to follow.

The late singer sold more than 50 million records in the United States alone during her career. Her voice, an ideal blend of power, grace and beauty, made classics out of songs like "Saving All My Love For You," ''I Will Always Love You" and "The Greatest Love of All." She earned six Grammys and starred in the films "The Bodyguard" and "The Preacher's Wife."

Bobby Brown, who had a bad-boy image, also became a huge star, selling platinum records with New Edition and going solo before drugs and legal woes derailed his career.

Bobbi Kristina appeared alongside both parents in 2005 on the Bravo reality show "Being Bobby Brown," which captured her parents fighting, swearing and appearing in court. The Hollywood Reporter said it revealed that Brown was "even more vulgar than the tabloids suggest," and managed "to rob Houston of any last shreds of dignity."

Years earlier, as Houston was preparing to give birth to Bobbi Kristina, she expressly left Bobby Brown out of her will, putting everything in a trust "for the benefit of her children and more remote descendants," according to the Houstons' 2012 petition.

After their divorce in 2007, Houston kept custody of Bobbi Kristina and raised her alongside Gordon, an orphan three years older than her daughter. Houston brought Gordon into her family, and while she never formally adopted him or included him in the will, both teenagers called her "mom."

The threesome's tight bond was shattered when Houston's assistant found the singer's lifeless body face-down in a foot of water in her bathtub at the Beverly Hilton just before the Grammy Awards in 2012. Authorities found prescription drugs in the suite, and evidence of heart disease and cocaine in her body, but determined her death was an accidental drowning.

Bobbi Kristina, then 18, was at the hotel and became so hysterical she had to be hospitalized. "She wasn't only a mother, she was a best friend," she told Winfrey.

She and Gordon then went public with their romance, posting defiant messages online after the tabloids accused them of incest.

The Houstons tolerated their relationship, appearing with them on television that year in Lifetime's reality show "The Houstons: On Our Own."

But in one telling episode, the late singer's relatives lectured the pair about drinking after they show up in an obviously altered state, and accused Gordon of failing to take care of the grieving girl.

Relations between Gordon and some other relatives continued to sour over the past year after Bobbi Kristina was hospitalized. A protective order barred him from being within 200 feet of Pat Houston, Bobbi Kristina's aunt. A feud erupted over whether Gordon could visit Bobbi Kristina while she stayed in the hospital.

On June 24, Bobbi Kristina's court-appointed representative sued Gordon, accusing him of misrepresenting his relationship with Bobbi Kristina. The complaint accused him of being violent toward her and taking more than $11,000 from her account while she was in a medically induced coma after the Jan. 31 tragedy.

The lawsuit also accused Gordon of assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, unjust enrichment and conversion.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said he and his office are interested in reviewing the investigative file to determine whether any charges will be filed.

Also on June 24, Pat Houston said Bobbi Kristina had been placed in hospice care.

'Ant-Man' inches past 'Pixels' to take first-place spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Ant-Man" crept past new opener "Pixels" to claim the top spot at the box office this weekend by an ant-sized margin. The Disney and Marvel superhero pic brought in $24.8 million over the weekend, bringing its domestic total to $106.1 million according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

"Pixels," meanwhile, just barely missed first place with a $24 million debut. While studios always hope for the bragging rights of a No. 1 debut, the real issue here is whether or not the Adam Sandler end of the world comedy will make up its $88 million production budget.

"It's been a little competitive in the marketplace when you consider the extent of the performance of `Jurassic' and `Inside Out,'" said Sony's President of Worldwide Distribution Rory Bruer. "To get to where we opened to was quite good."

Critics were not fond of "Pixels," which shows 1980s video arcade game characters attacking Earth, but younger audiences still turned out to theaters—an estimated 62 percent were under the age of 25.

Paul Dergarabedian, Rentrak's senior media analyst, said Sandler can still attract an audience, but the expensive film has a lot of ground to make up.

"They're really going to have to count on the international component. That's going to be key," he said.

Overall, the box office is down 3 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Lucy" opened particularly strong. Dergarabedian said that though some are attempting to link last week's theater shootings to any dip in the box office this weekend, "the numbers just don't bear it out."

Holdovers "Minions" and "Trainwreck" took the third and fourth spots with $22.1 million and $17.3 million, respectively.

Meanwhile, the R-rated boxing drama "Southpaw" surpassed expectations and landed a place in the top five with its $16.5 million opening.

Dergarabedian said that its performance is likely due to star Jake Gyllenhaal's enthusiastic promotion of the film and also the fact that it provides an alternative to the standard summer blockbuster fare.

"'Southpaw' felt like a really good fall movie," he said.

"Paper Towns," an adaptation of John Green's coming-of-age novel, opened in sixth place with $12.5 million.

1. **"Ant-Man,"** $24.8 millio ($35.4 million international).
2. **"Pixels,"** $24 million ($21.4 million international).
3. **"Minions,"** $22.1 million ($44 million international).
4. **"Trainwreck,"** $17.3 million ($220,000 international).
5. **"Southpaw,"** $16.5 million ($3.5 million international).
6. **"Paper Towns,"** $12.5 million ($8 million international).
7. **"Inside Out,"** $7.4 million ($28.3 million international).
8. **"Jurassic World,"** $6.9 million (47.6 million international).
9. **"Mr. Holmes,"** $2.8 million.
10. **"Terminator Genisys,"** $2.4 million ($10.7 million international).

Meek Mill: Drake's track dissing him is 'soft'

NEW YORK (AP)—The war of the words continues between rappers Meek Mill and Drake.

Mill said Sunday night that that a song Drake wrote dissing him is soft—like baby lotion. Mill made the comments at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where he was opening on tour for his girlfriend, Nicki Minaj.

Drake released the song "Charged Up" dissing Mill over the weekend after the Philadelphia-based rapper claimed Drake didn't write the lyrics for a song they collaborated on this year.

Mill said to the audience: "I was doing my album and I asked (Drake) to give me a verse for my album, but (Drake) gave me a verse that he didn't write that another (person) wrote."

He added of Drake's diss song: "I heard that (song), that (song) was very soft, baby lotion soft."

Mill said last week that Drake did not write his verse for the song "R.I.C.O.," which appears on his album, "Dreams Worth More Than Money." The album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart this month.

"When it comes to this rap (stuff)," Mill said, "Biggie and Tupac died to be the ... greatest. If you're going to be the greatest ... just make sure you're on your ... pen game and keep it all the way ... 100."

AP

In this Sunday, June 28, 2015, file photo, Nicki Minaj, left, and Meek Mill perform at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Comedy Central's 'Key & Peele' will end after current season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedy Central's irreverent sketch comedy series "Key & Peele" will come to an end after this season, the network confirmed Sunday.

Co-creator and star Keegan-Michael Key told the online trade publication "The Wrap" that the decision to stop after the fifth season was his and Jordan Peele's. Key said it will give him and Peele time to "explore other things."

Among the show's most popular sketches were the "East/West Bowl" and Luther, President Barack Obama's Anger Translator—who even appeared at the White House Correspondents' Dinner this year.

The show won a Peabody Award in 2013 and received a handful of Emmy nominations this year, including Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for Key.

Season five of "Key & Peele" is currently airing and will run into September.

Las Vegas hotel reopens pool where fire started

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas high-rise hotel has reopened its rooftop swimming pool a day after a fire sent patrons running and black smoke billowing above the Strip.

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas says the Bamboo Pool on the 14th floor reopened at 10 a.m. with full service except for its West Bar.

Hotel officials said in a statement that an area affected by the fire has been walled off by the Clark County Fire Department.

A spa, fitness center and the 15th floor of the hotel's West End Tower are also open.

However, guest rooms on the 14th floor are still closed.

Crews were called to the resort around 12:15 p.m. Saturday to reports of a fire by an outdoor pool.

Two people were treated for smoke inhalation.

Swedish police question Snoop Dogg for suspected drug use

HELSINKI (AP)—Swedish police say they briefly held U.S. rapper Snoop Dogg on suspicion of drug use after he performed a concert near Stockholm.

National police spokesman Fredrik Wallen says a police patrol in the city of Uppsala, north of the capital, stopped a car in which Snoop Dog was a passenger on Saturday evening after the concert. Police questioned him at a local police station and tested him for suspected drug use.

Wallen said Sunday the rapper was later released and was free to leave the country. Test results would not be available for "some time," he said.

He declined to give further details.

In this June 27, 2015 file photo, Snoop Dogg performs during the 2015 BET Experience at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. AP

Paper: App tracking Prince William flights poses terror risk

LONDON (AP)—A British newspaper said it has uncovered a major royal security breach by using an inexpensive app to track Prince William's air rescue ambulance while it is in the air.

The Mail on Sunday said the 2.99 pound ($4.65) app allowed it to keep close track of William as he flew in his capacity as a private pilot with East Anglian Air Ambulance in eastern England.

It said the app allowed its journalists to pinpoint where William was planning to land the air ambulance helicopter.

It published photos appearing to show William's helicopter landing and of the prince himself talking to colleagues on the ground.

For a small extra fee, the Mail on Sunday said, users can receive a text alert every time the helicopter William uses takes off on a mission.

Air safety expert Christopher Yates told The Associated Press it would be relatively easy to modify software so that a helicopter William was using couldn't be tracked, but he said such a change may not be warranted even though William is thought to fly without a protection officer.

"Most of the time when an air ambulance is called it appears on the scene, scoops someone up and disappears," he said. "If there were someone monitoring, the chance of them being there at the scene when he arrives is quite remote. And we don't know from one day to the next if he's going to be on board. So I don't see a problem."

William's press office refused to comment, calling it a security matter. The Metropolitan Police also refused to comment.

The prince returned to work several weeks ago after paternity leave following the birth of Princess Charlotte.

He previously made similar rescues while serving at a Royal Air Force base on an island off the coast of Wales.

Those were military flights not believed to be easily tracked by commonly available apps.

Woman discovers man's eyes aren't wandering by accident

DEAR ABBY: I am a 58-year-old, twice divorced, hard-working, middle-class female. I spend most of my time working and involved with my three adult children. About a year ago I started dating someone. He is 63, very helpful and claims he's madly in love with me and appreciates this opportunity for a normal, wholesome life.

Occasionally I'll catch him staring at women's butts. It bothers me a bit, but oh well, he's a man. Last week our family went camping. At least a dozen times I saw him position himself so that he could stare at my 40-year-old daughter's behind. Keep in mind, my daughter dresses VERY conservatively, and this trip was almost all jeans and T-shirts.

As we were packed up and ready to head home, she said she had to relieve herself and headed into the bushes (this is a remote campground). Instead of my boyfriend looking the other way as we all did, he stared and gawked in her direction obviously trying to sneak a peek!

Abby, I am devastated and disgusted. Please give me your take on this.

NORMAL OR NOT IN NEW YORK

DEAR NORMAL: For a man to look at women's body parts is normal, but what your boyfriend did goes beyond that. For him to try to sneak a peek at your daughter while she relieved herself indicates that he is a voyeur. Now you must determine whether he just takes advantage of an opportunity or he actively seeks it out, which could present a problem in the future.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is a 29-year-old new mother. I know times have changed since I was a new mom, but the restrictions my daughter has put on visiting her and my new grandson are unrealistic.

Since his birth three weeks ago, I have seen him only once—at the hospital. She has taken him on two outings: one where there were 10 people and another where there were more than 100. (My grandson has not yet received any of his childhood vaccinations.)

My daughter now says that when I visit, I must change into freshly washed clothes before entering her house. She's afraid that the secondhand smoke will harm him.

I'm not unintelligent. I have bought disinfectants to spray on myself, as well as breath strips. I also wash my hands, arms and face before I hold him. Am I unrealistic in thinking she's asking too much, or should I say something to her and let her know how much she has hurt me?

CRYING DAY AND NIGHT

DEAR CRYING: I do think you should talk to your daughter. What she may be trying to do is encourage you to quit smoking. I doubt that she's doing it to be hurtful.

Her motivation may be that she knows how unhealthy smoking is and would like you to be around until your grandchild is well into adulthood. The odds of that happening will be higher if you can find a way to give up tobacco. And when you do, consider putting all the money you save—and it will be plenty—into an education fund for your grandson.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

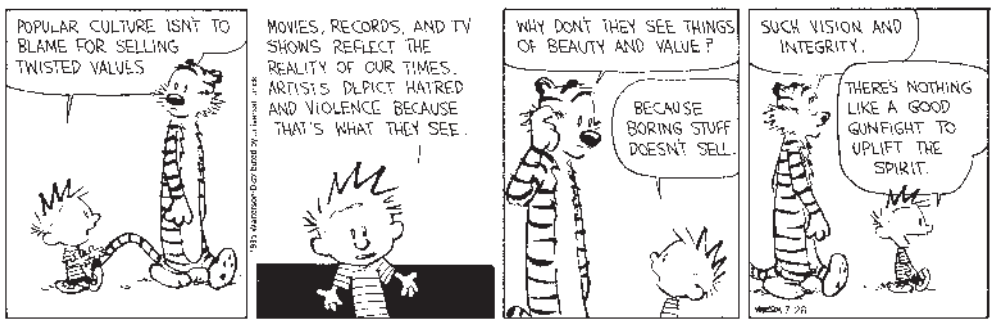
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

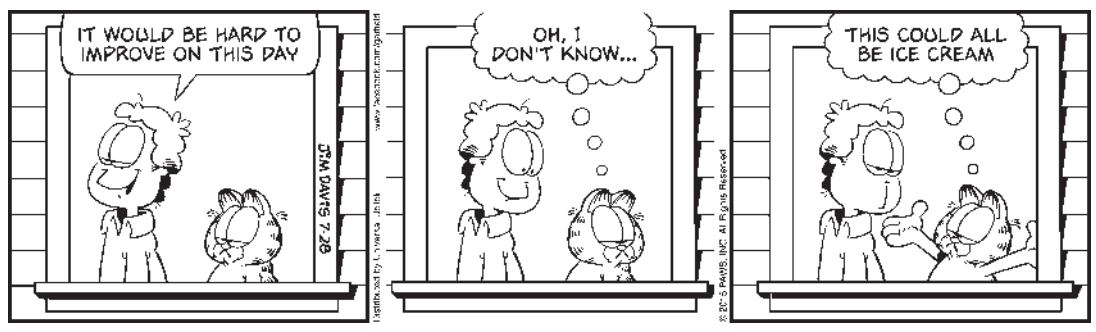
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


POPULAR CULTURE ISN'T TO BLAME FOR SELLING TWISTED VALUES
MOVIES, RECORDS, AND TV SHOWS REFLECT THE REALITY OF OUR TIMES. ARTISTS DEPICT HATRED AND VIOLENCE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY SEE.
WHY DON'T THEY SEE THINGS OF BEAUTY AND VALUE?
BECAUSE BORING STUFF DOESN'T SELL.
SUCH VISION AND INTEGRITY.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD GUNFIGHT TO UPLIFT THE SPIRIT.

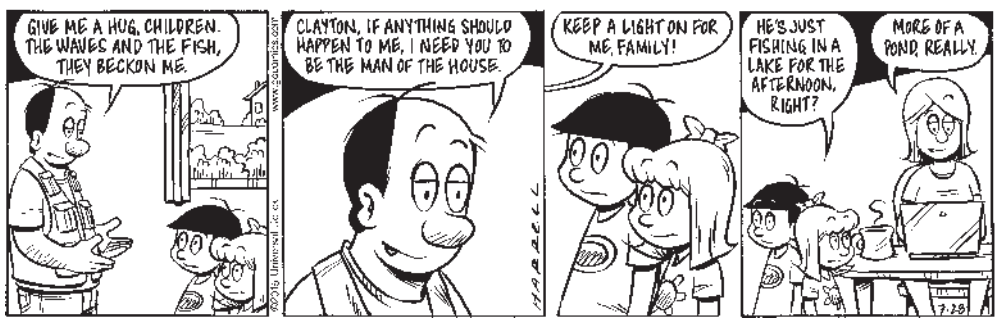
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



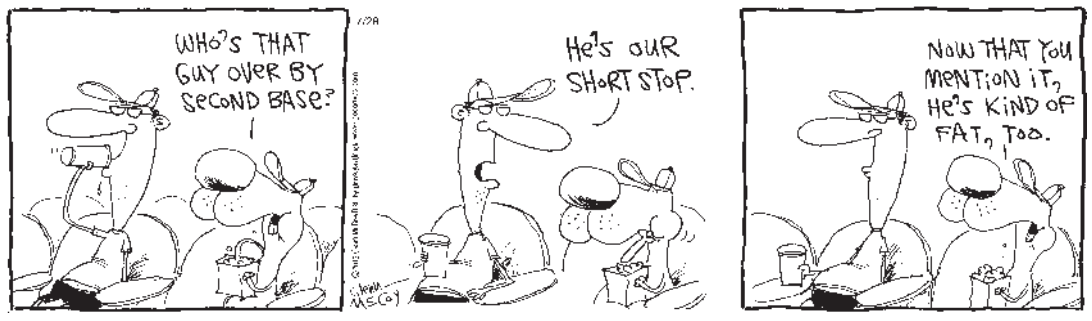
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GIVE ME A HUG, CHILDREN. THE WAVES AND THE FISH, THEY BECKON ME.
CLAYTON, IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME, I NEED YOU TO BE THE MAN OF THE HOUSE.
KEEP A LIGHT ON FOR ME, FAMILY!
HE'S JUST FISHING IN A LAKE FOR THE AFTERNOON, RIGHT?
MORE OF A POND, REALLY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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12 Isinglass
13 Put on
14 Great Lake
15 Chat
17 Lairs
18 Crucial
19 Use a crowbar
20 Fire a gun
21 Witness
22 Second person
23 Circular
26 Rubbed elbows with
30 Approximately
31 Morning star
32 Residence
33 Stretched out the vowels
35 Link
36 Half a dozen
37 Astronaut Grissom
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48 Hint
49 Existed
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51 Shortens a skirt
52 "— bodkins!"
53 "Finding Nemo" character

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4 Felonious flight
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6 Snug and warm
7 Away from WSW
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9 Twistable treat
10 Drunkard, maybe
11 Birds' home
16 Newspaper pg.
20 Junior
21 Winter walking wear
22 Yang counterpart
23 Staff
24 Bobby of hockey fame
25 Can. neighbor
26 Pie filling?
27 Bagel topper
28 Ostrich's cousin
29 — Moines
31 Gender
34 Illuminated
35 Unfeeling
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Solution time: 21 mins.

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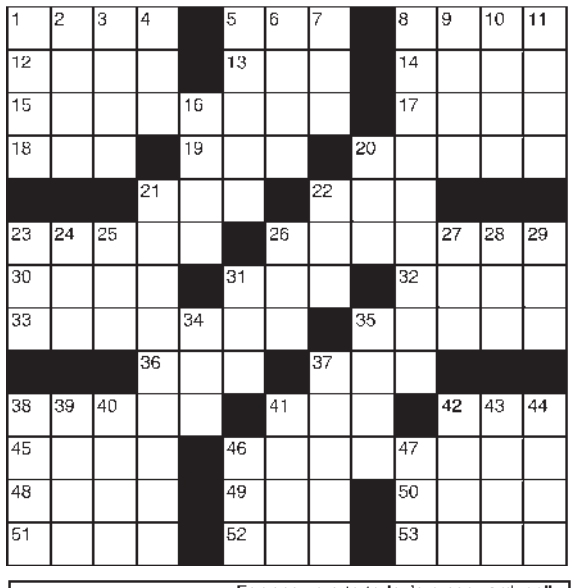
A	L	O	F	T		D	U	F	F	E	R	S
B	Y	L	A	W	S		E	L	F			
			M	O	L	E		Y	A	C	H	T
D	E	M	I		A	U	K		I	L	I	E
O	R	A	L		I	R	E		R	O	D	S
S	F	X	Y		N	O	G			G	F	T

Yesterday's answer 7-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lori Loughlin, 51; Sally Struthers, 68; Jim Davis, 70, Peter Cullen, 74. Happy Birthday: Good fortune comes from trying new things and exploring options. An open mind and a desire to make things happen will guide you in a direction that will change the way you view life, as well as how you live it in the future. Form your own opinions and make decisions that fit into your lifestyle. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 27, 36, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't sit back when you have so much energy to channel. Try to keep busy and accomplish all you can rather than let pent up emotions turn to anger. Choose your battles wisely and you will come out on top. ✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be tempted to get involved in something you have little control over. Consider the consequences if the outcome doesn't live up to your expectations. You should be investing in yourself and your skills, not in what someone else is doing.✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep working and elaborating on a plan you want to share with a partner or teammate. Much can be accomplished if you are willing to share ideas as well as incorporate positive adaptations to your original plans. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your personal life will interfere with your professional advancement if you don't separate one from the other. Look for opportunities that allow you to use the skills you enjoy the most. Don't settle for a job that doesn't stimulate you.✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace changes and challenges. Opportunities will unfold if you let others know what you are capable of doing. Don't let indecision regarding a connection or proposal cause unnecessary confusion. Put the past behind you and you will excel.✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let anyone confuse you. Size up your situation and act on what you see firsthand. Emotional responses must be handled carefully to avoid a misunderstanding. Take time out and do something you enjoy. A little pampering will go a long way. ✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts and find out what the general consensus is among those you respect and trust to give you an honest answer. The advice given will help you make the best choice regarding an opportunity that interests you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take any unnecessary chances. Problems with communication or while traveling to unfamiliar places are likely. Stick close to home and work on personal endeavors that will help improve both your home and your personal life.✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your outgoing, can-do attitude will lead to positive change and greater popularity. However, don't put yourself at risk by trying to do physical tasks that are beyond your capabilities. Ask for assistance and show what a good team player you can be.✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will experience tension and add to your stress if you feel you are being pushed to do something that you feel is questionable. Concentrate on a project that is within your means that you can do alone at your own pace.✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your thoughts into motion. You will be praised for the contributions you make and your ability to make everyone around you feel like an important part of your plans. Do a good job and avoid criticism and interference.✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your intuition will not lead you astray. Don't hesitate to work alone if it will spare you from dealing with someone who is negative or always trying to outdo you. Learn from past experiences and protect against anyone trying to take over.✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, sensitive and protective. You are disciplined and determined.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		1			3			4
		3		8				
9	6	8	4					
		7		3				2
	8						7	
3				6		5		
					7	9	2	8
				1		6		
5			9			7		1

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	2	3	6	7	8	4	9
4	3	9	2	1	8	5	7	6
7	8	6	9	4	5	1	3	2
9	7	1	4	2	3	6	5	8
8	4	5	7	9	6	2	1	3
2	6	3	5	8	1	7	9	4
3	1	8	6	7	4	9	2	5
5	9	7	8	3	2	4	6	1
6	2	4	1	5	9	3	8	7

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PERIWINKLES **Solution: 4 letters**

S	B	G	T	A	P	P	E	T	I	Z	E	R	L	E
L	E	R	A	A	S	P	I	R	A	L	N	L	A	E
R	I	A	O	R	I	N	S	E	B	A	(L)	S	D	T
O	E	A	F	I	L	L	L	I	E	A	(I)	N	I	U
H	S	Z	N	O	L	I	D	L	M	E	(O)	A	T	A
W	C	B	A	S	O	E	C	S	E	M	(B)	C	R	S
I	A	A	U	R	A	D	D	M	E	H	E	K	E	U
N	R	N	T	T	G	E	U	L	H	N	S	R	T	O
K	G	D	E	S	T	L	S	E	W	N	O	G	N	I
L	O	E	N	N	U	E	R	O	I	H	K	A	I	C
E	T	D	I	C	Y	B	R	P	S	G	C	L	E	I
T	S	O	R	T	S	B	O	S	A	Y	I	G	S	L
A	P	E	A	R	O	M	A	R	U	A	H	A	O	E
V	P	E	M	U	D	K	O	O	C	R	T	E	N	D
O	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	G	I	L	L	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Pink Slips

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Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board herby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (Room D), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IV. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Review & Amendment
V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER/
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

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Chris Froome wins 2nd Tour de France

AP

Peter Sagan of Slovakia, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, 2015 Tour de France cycling race winner Chris Froome of Britain, center, and Colombia's Nairo Quintana, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, celebrate on the podium after the twenty-first and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 109.5 kilometers (68 miles) with start in Sevres and finish in Paris, France, Sunday, July 26, 2015.

PARIS (AP)—All for one, one for all, and all bathed in yellow.

Arms over each other's shoulders, linked together in a long line of happiness, Tour de France winner Chris Froome and his teammates pedaled slowly over the finish line, soaking up the applause Sunday on the Champs-Elysees.

Three weeks of furious racing, of beating back both a tenacious Colombian, Nairo Quintana, and doping suspicions that are Lance Armstrong's poisonous legacy to cycling, were over.

Time for the winner's speech.

"The Maillot Jaune is special, very special," Froome said, using the yellow jersey's French name.

"I understand its history, good and bad," he said. "I will always respect it."

The Tour is still French. But British riders have won three of the last four: Bradley Wiggins in 2012 and now two for Froome, following his first win in 2013. That puts Britain equal with the United States, with three from Greg LeMond - and minus seven stripped from Armstrong.

Under suitably British weather, on rain-slickened roads, Froome took it easy on the last Stage 21, his work done having grimly resisted Quintana's late assault on his hard-won Tour lead the previous day on the final Alpine ascent.

The tired 160 riders—of 198 who started—didn't bother racing for much of the largely flat 110-kilometer (68-mile) ramble from Sevres, in the French capital's southwest.

To minimize risk of crashes, Tour organizers stopped the clock early, on the first of 10 laps up and down the Champs-Elysees' cobblestones.

That locked in Froome's lead to guarantee victory. He smiled broadly as he pedaled past flag-waving spectators. He still had to ride the laps to complete the full race distance of 3,354 kilometers (2,084 miles).

But knowing the title was his, he didn't have to panic when a paper bag got stuck in his back wheel. He simply stopped and changed bikes. He also had time to raise a glass of Champagne in the saddle and stop to put on a rain-coat under the iconic yellow jersey.

While sprinters dashed ahead for the stage win—snatched by Andre Greipel, his fourth and Germany's sixth at this Tour—Froome and his teammates, wearing yellow stripes on their shorts and helmets, linked together for their slow-motion, chorus-line finish.

"This is your yellow jersey as much as it is mine," Froome said.

Their powerful riding, chasing rivals in the mountains and protecting Froome on flats, was vital. So, too, was the meticulous planning of Dave Brailsford, the organizational brains at Froome's Team Sky, which has far surpassed its goal in 2009 of nurturing Britain's first Tour winner within five years.

In a repeat of 2013, Quintana was again runner-up. But the margin was much smaller this time: 1 minute, 12 seconds, the tightest win since 2008.

Third-placed Alejandro Valverde, Quintana's Movistar teammate from Spain, made the podium for the first time, moving up from fourth last year.

For all the pre-Tour talk of a possible four-way battle between Froome, Quintana, 2014 champion Vincenzo Nibali and two-time winner Alberto Contador, only the 25-year-old Colombian—who again won the Tour's white jersey as best young rider—gave the yellow jersey a run for his 450,000 euros ($494,000) in prize money.

"He's a great rival," Quintana said. "He suffered a lot to win."

With more experience and more smarts in the first week when he lost too much time, Quintana would have posed a bigger threat and perhaps come closer to becoming the first Colombian winner.

This Tour was mountain-heavy, suiting Quintana's climbing strengths. Future Tours could have more time trials, which Froome excels at. Their developing rivalry, with youth on Quintana's side against the 30-year-old Froome, could help the sport win back fans disgusted by the systematic deceit of Armstrong's era.

"I have lots of years ahead of me," Quintana said.

Totaled up, Quintana took more time off Froome on the Tour's high mountain climbs than the other way around.

Yet the Colombian didn't have to contend with the scrutiny, doubt and thinly-veiled suggestions of doping that Froome was forced to respond to on an almost daily basis, mostly with patience but also with bristle as the race wore on.

Such was his strength, it's no longer a stretch to imagine Froome soon joining the elite group of seven riders who won three Tours or more. The record of five wins—achieved by Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain—is still far off.

Froome says he would like to keep competing "as long as my body will allow me." His aim is at least another six years.

"I love the sacrifices, the training, the hard work. That's what gets me out of bed in the mornings. I'm not trying to do it for a specific amount of Tour titles or fame," he said after sealing his win in the Alps. "I love riding my bike. I love pushing my body to the limit. I love the freedom that cycling gives you."

Jason Day rallies to win Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Jason Day made himself right at home in the Canadian Open—at David Hearn's expense.

The Australian birdied the final three holes to win the national championship Sunday at Glen Abbey, spoiling Hearn's bid to become the first Canadian winner in 61 years.

"I've never felt so much at home, and I'm not even from Canada," Day said. "I'm looking forward to coming back and defending the title here next year because I know that when I get here next year it's going to be the same. It's great to feel like a Canadian for a week."

Day made a 20-foot putt on the par-5 18th for a 4-under 68 and a one-stroke victory over Bubba Watson. Hearn, two strokes ahead of Day and Watson entering the round, had a 72 to finish third—two strokes back.

"I'm real proud of the way I played and I'm really proud to be Canadian today," Hearn said. "It was a pretty special day with all of the fans and the support that I had from beginning to finish."

Pat Fletcher, born in England, was the last Canadian winner in 1954 at Point Grey in Vancouver, British Columbia. Carl Keffer is the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914. Albert Murray, a Canadian also born in England, won in 1908 and 1913.

"It was one focused mindset the whole day today to do something really special and win the tournament," said Hearn, from Brantford—also hockey great Wayne Gretzky's hometown. "It hasn't been done in a long time, and I felt like I had the ability to do it today. I gave it my all. I didn't quite have my best game."

"It's a matter of time," fourth-place Jim Furyk said. "There are so many good Canadian players. I feel bad Mike Weir never won this golf tournament. But Graham DeLaet, David, there are a bunch of fine young players, so I'm sure it's going to happen."

Day was coming off a fourth-place tie Monday in the British Open at St. Andrews. The 28-year-old Australian also fought through vertigo symptoms last month to tie for ninth in the U.S. Open. He has four PGA Tour victories, also winning at Torrey Pines in February.

"This must feel like what Tiger (Woods) did for so many times, and it feels good," Day said. "I'm going to try to do as much as I can and keep it the same and try and win."

AP

Australia's Jason Day reacts after missing a putt on the 16th during the final round at the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Monday, July 20, 2015.

Day birdied three of the first seven holes, but dropped strokes on Nos. 8 and 9. Playing a group ahead of Watson and Hearn, Day parred the first six holes on the back nine, then birdied the par-5 16th and par-4 17th and stretched his lead to two with the downhill birdie putt on 18. He finished at 17-under 271.

Watson had a chance to force a playoff, but missed an eagle chip on 18 and settled for his fourth straight birdie and a 69.

Hearn birdied the first two holes, but gave back the strokes with bogeys on Nos. 3 and 7. He also bogeyed the par-3 12th, birdied the par-5 13th and closed with five pars.

"He was playing so good, he started off hot," Watson said. "He putts unbelievable. There was so many putts that he hit that should've fell in. I don't know how they stayed out. For him and Canada that would've been a great story. That would've been his first win. How amazing would that have been?"

Hearn was the first Canadian to have a 54-hole lead at the Canadian Open since Weir in 2004 at Glen Abbey. Weir led by three shots, but lost in a playoff to Vijay Singh.

"This one was pretty intense," Hearn said. "I think every Canadian wants to see it so bad and we want to do it so bad that it does make it hard."

Two-time winner Furyk had a 69 to reach 14 under. Stewart Cink and Tom Hoge followed at 13 under, each shooting 66.

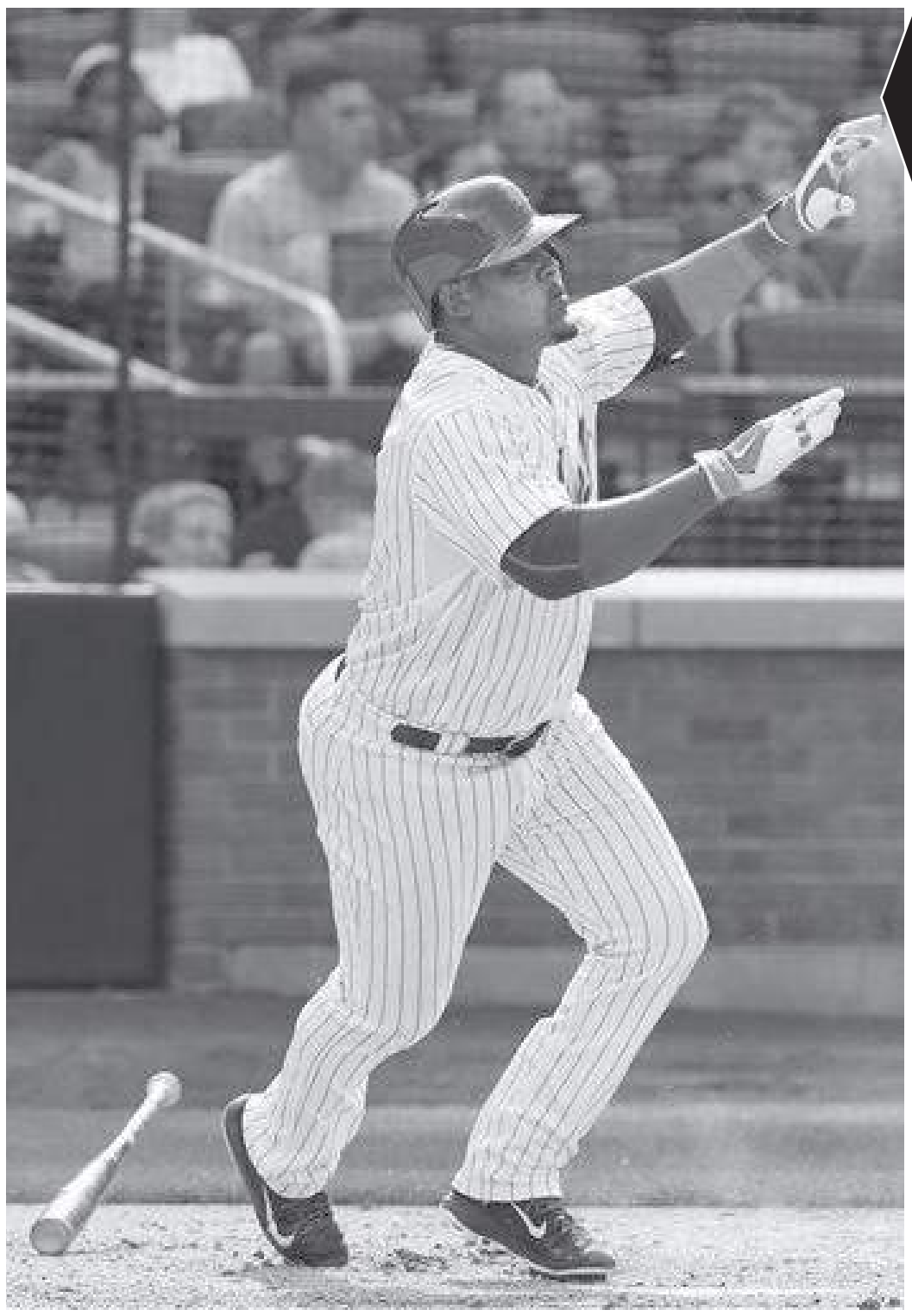
Greinke's shutout streak ends, Mets beat Dodgers 3-2 in 10

NEW YORK (AP)—Zack Greinke's shutout streak ended at 45 2/3 innings when the Mets scored the first of two runs against him as New York beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Sunday off newcomer Juan Uribe's single off the wall in the 10th.

Jacob deGrom outpitched Greinke in a marquee matchup that lived up to its billing, but Yasmani Grandal hit a tying single in the ninth as Los Angeles erased a two-run deficit against closer Jeurys Familia, who was trying for a four-out save.

Greinke allowed a run in the third on a grounder by deGrom and another in the sixth when rookie Michael Conforto was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Jenrry Mejia (1-0) pitched out of a jam in the top of the 10th, striking out rookie slugger Joc Pederson and retiring Howie Kendrick with a runner on third. Juan Nicasio (1-3) got the loss.



AP
New York Mets Juan Uribe watches his 10th inning, walk-off single in the Mets 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in a baseball game in New York, Sunday, July 26, 2015.

Red Sox 11, Tigers 1

In Boston, David Ortiz homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs to lead Boston over Detroit.

Ortiz, who had two three-run homers and an RBI single, and Xander Bogaerts each had four of the season-high 20 hits by the Red Sox.

Boston won for just the second time 11 games—with both victories coming in this series.

Nick Castellanos hit a solo homer for the second straight day for the struggling Tigers, who have lost six of nine.

Eduardo Rodriguez (6-3) rebounded from a miserable start by pitching seven strong innings.

Shane Greene (4-8) didn't make it out of the fifth inning for the third straight start since being recalled from Triple-A Toledo. He gave up five runs—four in the fifth—on 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Royals 5, Astros 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, the Royals traded for right-hander Johnny Cueto, and then used Yordano Ventura's seven sharp innings to beat Dallas Keuchel and the Astros.

Ventura (5-7) allowed one run and six hits in just his second win in his last seven starts.

The Royals announced during the game that they had acquired Cueto from Cincinnati for minor league left-handers Brandon Finnegan, John Lamb and Cody Reed, drawing a big cheer at Kauffman Stadium.

Keuchel (12-5), who started for the American League in the All-Star Game, was tagged for a season-high 10 hits in 6 2/3 innings. He also allowed five runs, matching a season high.

Pirates 3, Nationals 1

In Pittsburgh, Gerrit Cole became the majors' first 14-game winner, leading Pittsburgh to the victory.

Cole allowed one run and seven hits in 7 2/3 innings while improving to 3-1 with a 2.40 ERA in four July starts. The right-hander struck out eight and walked none.

Cole (14-4) also became the first Pittsburgh pitcher with 14 wins before August since Dock Ellis in 1971.

Danny Espinosa chased Cole with a single that put two runners on for Bryce Harper, who grounded out against left-hander Tony Watson. Mark Melancon picked up his major league-best 32nd save with a scoreless ninth.

Michael Taylor homered for NL East-leading Washington, and Joe Ross (2-3) struck out seven while pitching six innings of three-run ball.

Phillies 11, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Ryan Howard homered for the second straight day and rookie Aaron Nola got his first major league win as Philadelphia completed a three-game series sweep.

Maikel Franco also went deep as the major league-worst Phillies collected 17 hits in their eighth win in nine games since the All-Star break. Franco and Domonic Brown each drove in three runs a day after Cole Hamels threw no-hitter against the Cubs.

Nola (1-1) allowed four runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings in his second career start. The touted prospect also had an RBI single in Philadelphia's three-run fourth.

With the game out of hand, Cubs catcher David Ross pitched a perfect ninth. He then hit a solo homer in the bottom half of the inning.

Chicago right-hander Jason Hammel (5-5) was tagged for six runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings.

White Sox 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Carlos Rodon pitched a shutout into the seventh inning and Carlos Sanchez homered for the second straight day, powering the White Sox to the road win.

Rodon and Sanchez, both rookies, helped the White Sox finish off their first four-game sweep in Cleveland since July 14-17, 2005. Chicago outscored the Indians 26-5 and never trailed in the series.

Rodon (4-3) recorded the longest outing of his career in his first win since June 20. The left-hander struck out nine and allowed five hits in 6 2/3 innings.

David Robertson allowed a run in the ninth before finishing for his 21st save.

The Indians have lost six straight at home and are 19-30 at Progressive Field. Danny Salazar (8-6) yielded two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Yankees 7, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Yankees right-hander Nathan Eovaldi pitched impressively into the ninth inning, and Chase Headley and Stephen Drew homered.

Eovaldi (10-2) came out to start the ninth but was pulled after giving up a leadoff double to Miguel Sano. He allowed eight hits and walked one while reaching double-digit wins for the first time.

Headley had two big hits against Kyle Gibson (8-8)—the first a solo homer in the fifth that made it 1-all, and then a two-run single the next inning that knocked the Twins starter out of the game.

Braves 3, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Adonis Garcia's first career home run broke a deadlock and rookie Matt Wisler worked seven strong innings for Atlanta.

Wisler (5-1) allowed two runs and seven hits in his longest outing since he pitched eight innings in a win over the Mets in his major league debut on June 19.

The Braves took advantage of Michael Wacha's wildness for a 2-0 lead in the second inning. Ryan Lavarnway doubled into the left-field corner to score Eury Perez, who had worked a one-out walk from an 0-2 count. Following a two-out walk to Jace Peterson, Cameron Maybin singled in Lavarnway.

Wacha (11-4) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings. Steve Cishek, acquired in a trade with Miami on Friday, tossed a scoreless eighth inning in his Cardinals debut.

Jim Johnson got three outs for his ninth save.

Orioles 5, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Nolan Reimold had a two-run double among three hits as the Orioles beat the Rays for their second straight win after a four-game skid.

Chen Wei-yin (5-6) won for the first time in four starts against Tampa Bay, giving up two runs and six hits while striking out three in 5 1/3 innings.

Caleb Joseph hit a two-run homer for the Baltimore.

Evan Longoria and Logan Forsythe homered for the Rays on consecutive pitches in the fourth. In his fifth start since returning from Tommy John surgery, Matt Moore (1-2) allowed five runs and eight hits in five innings.

Four relievers finished for the Orioles. Zach Britton earned his 25th save.

Padres 3, Marlins 2

In San Diego, Justin Upton homered and Odrisamer Despaigne pitched six solid innings to lead San Diego.

Upton, mentioned in various trade rumors, hit his 16th home run and also singled. Yonder Alonso also had two hits.

Despaigne (4-7) gave up a run and two hits with two walks and struck out three. He also hit a batter. The win was San Diego's third straight and Despaigne's first since beating the Pirates on May 31.

Joaquin Benoit pitched the eighth and Craig Kimbrel got the last three outs for his 29th save in 30 chances.

The Padres have won nine of the last 11 games against the Marlins at Petco Park.

Mat Latos (4-7) gave up all three runs and six hits while striking out six in six innings.

Giants 4, Athletics 3

In San Francisco, Tim Hudson earned a win against the only team he had never beaten in a 17-year big league career, helping San Francisco complete a sweep in the Bay Bridge Series.

Matt Duffy hit a two-run homer in the first and drove in three runs, and Brandon Belt added an RBI single in the initial inning to back Hudson (6-8), who became the 15th pitcher to defeat all 30 current teams in the majors.

Hudson also won his first game since turning 40 on July 14.

Buster Posey had a season-high four hits in the Giants' sixth straight home win, fifth in a row overall and 12th in 14.

A's rookie Kendall Graveman (6-7) lost his third straight start and has failed to make it out of the fifth in any of those outings.

Angels 13, Rangers 7

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout had a grand slam and a solo shot among his season-high four hits to lead Los Angeles.

C.J. Cron also went deep and rookie Andrew Heaney kept his unblemished record intact, helping the Angels end a three-game skid and regain sole possession of the AL West lead by a game over the Houston Astros.

Heaney (5-0) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings in his sixth start for the Angels after making five starts last season with the Miami Marlins and going 0-3 with a 5.83 ERA in seven total appearances.

The 24-year-old left-hander has thrown at least six innings and allowed fewer than three runs in all of his outings this season. The only pitcher in club history to do that in each of his first seven starts with the club was Jered Weaver in 2006.

Nick Martinez (5-6) was charged with four runs and six hits in five-plus innings for Texas.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

In Seattle, Franklin Gutierrez homered with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning to give Seattle a win in a game the Mariners kept close with the aid of a triple play.

Gutierrez jumped on an 0-2 pitch from Aaron Loup (2-5) and drove it over the wall in left-center for his third homer.

Nelson Cruz brought the Mariners even at 5-5 in the seventh with his 25th home run, a two-run shot to left off Bo Schultz.

Joe Beimel (2-1), who struck out one in one relief inning, picked up the win for the Mariners.

With Toronto leading 4-3, the Mariners turned a triple play in the fourth inning. Ezequiel Carrera drew a leadoff walk and moved to third on Kevin Pillar's single. Ryan Goings bounced out to first and Pillar was hung up between first and second, and Carrera stuck between third and home. Both runners ended up at third base and each was tagged out by catcher Mike Zunino.

Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz, Biggio enter Hall of Fame

AP

Newly-inducted National Baseball Hall of Famers from left to right, Craig Biggio, John Smoltz, Randy Johnson and Pedro Martinez hold their plaques after an induction ceremony at the Clark Sports Center on Sunday, July 26, 2015, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Three pitchers who became dominant after trades and a rock-solid catcher-turned-second baseman have a new moniker—Hall of Famer.

Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz and Craig Biggio were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday and basked in the spotlight one more time with at least 40,000 fans cheering from the sun-drenched field beyond.

For Martinez, the last to speak, the moment was magical as scores in the crowd waved Dominican flags for one of their own. Martinez, who also delivered part of his speech in Spanish, and former Giants great Juan Marichal, elected in 1983, are the only Hall of Famers from the Caribbean nation.

At the end of the ceremony, Martinez beckoned Marichal to the stage and they held their flag high, one last emotional gesture as the crowd roared.

"We waited 32 years for another Dominican," said Martinez, who wore a patch honoring his nation's flag on one shoulder and another honoring the United States on the other. "I hope all Dominicans remember this. I don't think the Dominican Republic will have a better image than me and Marichal on Father's Day (in the Dominican Republic) to be up there."

Playing through an era tainted by steroids and ruled by offense—compliments of bulked-up sluggers, a smaller strike zone and smaller ballparks—Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz proved indomitable. They combined for 735 wins, 11,113 strikeouts and nine Cy Young Awards.

Biggio, who played four positions in his 20-year career, all with the Houston Astros, was indefatigable, becoming an All-Star at second base and behind the plate.

"We changed the culture in Houston by making it a baseball city," said Biggio, who grew up on New York's Long Island. "To the Astros fans, you guys are the greatest fans in the world."

Martinez, 219-100 for his career, helped Boston break an 86-year-old World Series drought in 2004 and is the first pitcher inducted who played primarily for the Red Sox. He grew up with five brothers and sisters in a one-room home on the outskirts of Santo Domingo and credits brother Ramon, a starter with the Dodgers during Pedro's rookie season in Los Angeles, as a key to his career.

"I have a second dad," said Martinez, who won 117 games and two Cy Youngs in seven seasons pitching in hitter-friendly Fenway Park. "Ramon, you are my second dad. I followed in his footsteps and it led me to where I am today."

Remarkably, all three pitchers didn't stick around with their first clubs very long. Drafted by Montreal, Johnson made the Expos' roster in 1988 and midway through the 1989 season was traded to the Seattle Mariners.

Smoltz, signed by his hometown Detroit Tigers after being selected on the 22nd round of the 1985 amateur draft, was dealt to Atlanta for veteran Doyle Alexander in August 1987. And the Dodgers, thinking he might be too fragile at 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds for the rigors of the game as a starter, traded Martinez to Montreal after the hard-throwing right-hander with the pinpoint control had a solid rookie season in the bullpen.

On this day, that was ancient history.

Johnson, at 6-foot-10 the tallest player elected to the Hall of Fame, gave special thanks to his parents. His father died in 1992. His mother, Carol, was watching from the front row.

"Thank you, mom. You're the Hall of Famer," Johnson said.

Johnson became a 20-game winner in 1997 and won four consecutive Cy Young awards with the Arizona Diamondbacks, leading them to the World Series championship in 2001. He finished with 303 victories in 22 seasons.

Smoltz won the 1996 Cy Young award and reached the playoffs 14 times with Atlanta. The Braves won five pennants and the 1995 World Series with Smoltz on the roster. He's the first pitcher to win more than 200 games and save at least 150 games. He's also the first player inducted with Tommy John surgery on his resume.

Smoltz understood his debt to John.

"I'm a miracle. I'm a medical miracle," Smoltz said. "I never took one day for granted."

Smoltz also heaped praise on former manager Bobby Cox and teammates Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, who were inducted a year ago, and delivered a message to parents of the players of tomorrow as the number of Tommy John surgeries continues to escalate.

"Understand that this is not normal to have a surgery at 14 or 15 years old," Smoltz said to warm applause. "Baseball is not a year-round sport. They're competing too hard, too early. That's why we're having these problems."

Biggio became the only player in major league history with at least 3,000 hits, 600 doubles, 400 stolen bases and 250 home runs while being asked to play four positions in his 20-year career, all with the Astros.

He paid special thanks to coach Matt Galante, who worked tirelessly over six weeks of spring training as Biggio made the transition from catcher to second base.

Emon Lodge caging kicks off Aug. 16

Emon Lodge No. 179 Basketball League is set to open on Aug. 16 at the TSL Sports Complex Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. The league is sponsored by IT&E.

Interested teams are allowed to have only 12 players on their roster. Representatives/coaches of participating teams are asked to list the complete names of their players and their chosen jersey numbers. Teams should also provide organizers with a photocopy of registration and waiver forms filled up by each player.

Game schedule and other details of the league were discussed during a meeting yesterday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Registration forms for interested teams were distributed during last night's on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Peter Crisostomo at 483-1997, and Joe Falaminiano at 989-7629. ***(PR)***

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to enjoy a 5-2 breathing room. He defeated Francis Tenorio while Soriano and Cultura clinched two more wins against Portusack and Olamit.

Mahilum kept Guam within striking distance after besting Villanueva, 5-3. But Tenorio and Cid dropped close matches against Cepeda and Mariano for a 7-3 count.

Guam won five of the next eight matches to keep their hopes alive with Tenorio, Purtusack, Mahilum, and Olamit emerging victorious in their respective matchups against Soriano, Villanueva, and Cepeda.

Team Saipan, however, was still up 10-8 with the pressure of clinching the win falling on the hands of Cepeda against Tenorio.

Cepeda, the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Thursday Open 8-ball League finals MVP, did not disappoint the home team and defeated Tenorio to seal Saipan's victory.

Cepeda played calm under pressure despite Tenorio's repeated attempts to turn things to his favor and allow Guam to tie the match and force a deciding Singles match.

Mahilum, Olamit, and Portusack are three of Guam's top billiards players in their own league.

Team Guam also attended last Sunday's awards banquet of the Budweiser-SBA Winter/Spring 2015 season.

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are expected to compete.

"I'm not expecting anything in this race but I would like to improve on my time in the Tagaman, my first Half Ironman event," Castro added.

The 17-year-old finished with a combined time of 6:35:34 in this year's Tagaman. He had 42:04 swim, logged in 2:59:01 in the bike, before wrapping up his campaign with a time of 2:54:29 in the run leg.

Castro said he'd be busy in the last quarter of the year as he plans to join the Tour de Guam in November and the Hell of the Marianas in December. "Of course I'll do the XTERRA and Tagaman again next year."

He said that triathlon became addicting to him where he slowly transitioned from riding the bike to doing the multi sport event.

"I like to challenge myself and try something new. Yes, it is tiring but also fun to do the whole thing. I did Taga Kids before and also tried shorter distance triathlon courses," Castro added.

The Cobra Ironman offers 40 qualifying slots to the 2016 Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast, Australia.

NMI

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taken in the morning of Aug. 1. The opening ceremony is set at 8pm on Saturday.

Team CNMI and the nine other competing teams—Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America, host Maine, U.S. West, U.S. Southwest, U.S. Central, U.S. East, and U.S. Southeast—will be housed at the Holiday Inn Bangor Hotel.

Tournament format will be modified double elimination where teams need to win two games in order to guarantee of advancing to the next round.

If the CNMI wins against Europe-Africa representatives Lazio League of Italy they will face host Maine District 3 on Aug. 3, Monday. A loss would have them playing against the loser of the U.S. Central-Canada match.

Games will continue on Aug. 4 and 5, while the four surviving teams will clash in the semifinals on Aug. 6. A Major League Baseball Scouting Showcase is also scheduled at 8:30am on Aug. 7, Friday, where the bracket All-Star game will also be played at 1:30pm while the awards banquet is set at 7:30pm.

The winners of the semifinals match will collide for the title in a you-or-me showdown at 12noon on Saturday, Aug. 8. The game will be televised live by ESPN2.

All teams leave on Aug. 9, Sunday, with the CNMI Senior Leaguers expected to arrive back on Saipan on Aug. 11.

The CNMI, overall, has represented the region 20 times in the four Little League divisions with the Majors going three times in 1993, 2004, and 2006, while the Junior League had a five-year streak from 2001 to 2005, and again in 2009.

The CNMI's Big League World Series stints were from 1997 to 1999, then in 2001, 2007, and 2008.

Road to Ironman Run Leg

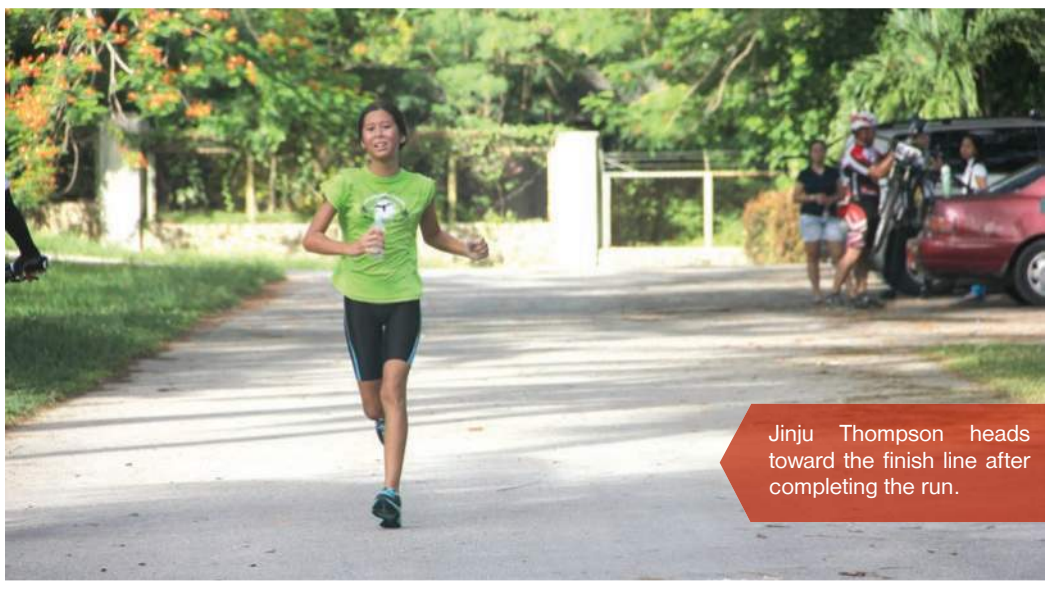
PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

David Boyer adjusts his eyeglasses before taking on the five-kilometer run leg of last week's Islander Rent-A-Car Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Fundraising Race at the Pau Pau Beach Park.

Kimiko McKagan on her way to a first place finish in the triathlon's individual female category.

Jinju Thompson, left, waits for the tag of her father Colin. The Thompsons topped the triathlon team relay.

Joshua Berger, right, prepares to tag teammate Tiffany Lin.



Jinju Thompson heads toward the finish line after completing the run.

Tiffany Lin smiles as she crosses the finish line.

Rommel Buenaflor, right, and Von Adrian B. Libayan race to the finish line.

Some members of the relay teams, from left, Rommel Buenaflor, sisters Jinju and Jeanie Thompson, Tiffany Lin, and Daniel Marzan.

Chris Froome wins 2nd Tour de France

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Erico aims to make best of Cebu Ironman stint

JON PEREZ
Erico Castro makes a turn leading to the Sound of Music in the bike leg of this year's XTERRA Saipan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Erico Castro left for the Philippines last Saturday where he will be competing in the 2015 Cobra Ironman 70.3 Philippines set on Aug. 2 in Mactan City, Cebu province.

Castro, along with his dad Ricky took an early morning Asiana Airlines flight to Korea before taking a connecting flight to Manila. Peter Prestley is also set to compete in the Cobra Ironman.

They would be staying for almost one week in Subic in Zambales, in the central island of Luzon, which is his father's home province. They would head to Cebu via Clark International Airport in Pampanga this weekend.

This would be Castro's second time to join a Half Ironman distance—composed of a 1.9-kilometer swim, 90K bike, and 21K run legs—race but first competing in an off-island event. He did the Tagaman Triathlon in March this year.

"I'll try to see new places in Subic and continue my training there. I'll try to join if there's any local races there," said Castro in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

"I've joined a lot of racing events but honestly, I'm feeling kind of nervous like it was my first time," added the incoming senior at Mt. Carmel School.

Castro said that more than 2,000 participants would be joining the racing event in Cebu, where Filipino celebrities Kim Atienza and Matteo Guidicelli

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NMI Senior All-Stars to leave Friday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The World Series-bound CNMI Senior Leaguers is set to leave on Friday for Bangor, Maine in time for their opening match against mystery team Europe-Africa at 2pm on Aug. 2 at the Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium.

They will take a 6:05am flight from Saipan and are expected to arrive in Japan at 8:40am. They will have an eight-hour layover at Narita Airport before heading to the mainland.

After the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament, the team has been regularly practicing every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6pm to 9pm at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The coaching staff—led by manager Greg Camacho and head coach Lawrence Camacho—said they like how the players perform during practice but are hoping the team would improve more during the actual games.

This would be the fifth time and second straight year that the CNMI would be representing the Asia-Pacific region in the World Series. The CNMI previously went to the Senior League World Series in 2004, 2007, and 2010.

The Commonwealth clinched the World Series berth after completing a six-game sweep in last month's ASPAC regional tournament, which was cut short by Tropical Storm Chan-Hom.

Team CNMI is expected to arrive on Friday, July 31, local time in Bangor where they are scheduled to receive their uniforms and have their photo

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JON PEREZ
CNMI Senior League All-Stars team member Lorenzo Sebaklim in action in their game against Guam in last month's ASPAC regional tournament held on Saipan.

Saipan beats Guam in friendly billiards

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Team Saipan bested visiting Guam, 11-8, in last Saturday's Marianas Shoot To Thrill Saipan vs Guam 8-Ball Pool Tournament held at the Abyss Restaurant in Garapan.

All 19 Singles 8-Ball matches played in the race-to-11 contest were close as Guam showed that the host team's roster did not intimidate them.

Both teams experienced bad breaks and missed shots but all the players tested their talents in playing safety if there's no open shot.

The 5-on-5, one-day tournament—which followed an alternate break format—featured the most valuable players from the respective billiards leagues in Guam and on Saipan.

Team Saipan actually started on the wrong foot after Jerry Soriano lost to Frank Pur-tusack in the opening Singles match.

Nolan Cultura and Rolly Villanueva gave the hosts a 2-1 lead when they scored consecutive wins over Mike Mahilum and Ernie Cid.

Marvin Olamit tied the count after beating Patrick Cepeda.

Manny Mariano kicked off a three-game win streak by the hosts

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JON PEREZ
Team Guam captain and billiards league secretary Ernie Cid, left, joins his teammates and Saipan counterpart Warlee Ellama, right, for a group photo during last Sunday's awards banquet of the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Winter/Spring season.